Wednesday, June 27, 2012 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 199 P18 | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PLANTING RICE IS FUN IN ALBAY Who said planting rice is never fun? These graduate students from the National University of Singapore do not think so as they learn how to plant rice during a visit to Libon, Albay province, this month. Among the graduate students is the Nigerian Ambassador to Japan Emmanuel Owolenigha-Otoorie (at left). (See story below)

Sino ships never left shoal, says military

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

CHINESE fishing vessels have not left the lagoon of Scarborough Shoal and Chinese government ships continue to patrol the vicinity of the disputed, resource-rich area in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

On Monday afternoon, after Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario announced that there were no more Chinese fishing boats in the shoal's lagoon, a Philippine Navy reconnaissance plane sighted 23 Chinese fishing boats—six large vessels and 17 dinghies—in the lagoon.

The Navy plane also spotted five large Chinese government ships—three China Maritime Surveillance ships and two Fisheries Law Enforcement Command ships—outside the lagoon.

The Philippines had on yes-

SINO, A10

Palace: Wrong HK ship

China warns PH vs 1st school on Pag-asa

By Jerry E. Esplanada

CHINA has warned the Philippines against operating a public kindergarten school on Pag-asa Island off Palawan province.

Hong Lei, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, told a press briefing on Monday in Beijing that China "opposes any illegal activity that may infringe on China's sovereignty," according to the state-run Xinhua News Agency.

Manila should "refrain from taking any measure that will complicate and exacerbate the current situation and affect peace and stability in the South China Sea," Hong said.

He insisted that China had "indisputable sovereignty" over the Spratly chain of islands and its surrounding waters.

Pag-asa Island is part of Kalayaan town in Palawan. Hong

CHINA, A17

First Pag-asa school looking for more pupils / A10

PAG-ASA CLASS OF 2012 The Philippine flag flies in the breeze as Kalayaan town Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon (center) poses with the teacher, schoolchildren and their parents at the opening of the first-ever school in Pag-asa of Kalayaan town, Palawan province—Pag-asa Elementary School—on the disputed West Philippines Sea island on June 15.

Survivor says it's not Peach Mountain

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ONE of the fishermen who survived a maritime accident in the West Philippine Sea on June 20 said yesterday it may not have been the Hong Kong-registered MV Peach Mountain that struck and destroyed his boat, killing one of his companions and leaving four others missing.

Malacañang also said that the Peach Mountain was not the vessel involved in the accident.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said, however, that efforts had begun to find the vessel, which was another Hong Kong-registered ship.

The government has not yet contacted Hong Kong authori-

PALACE, A14

Go easy on the blame game, solon tells officials / A10

3M child laborers in PH, says ILO survey

By Philip C. Tubeza

THERE are 3 million child laborers toiling in the Philippines and almost all of them are working in hazardous conditions, according to a survey released by the International Labor Organization (ILO).

The 2011 Survey on Children conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) and released yesterday showed that out of the 29.039 million Filipino children aged 5-17 years old, about 18.9 percent or 5.56 million, were already working.

This is higher than the 4 mil-

3M CHILDLABOR

6 points laid out in P-Noy's mining agenda

By Kristine L. Alave

ASIDE FROM ensuring more revenues from the mining industry, the government plans to wield control over a wider range of lucrative mineral resources, including oil and gas under a new mining policy being fine-tuned by Malacañang.

A proposed executive order (EO) drafted by the Cabinet cluster on climate change mitigation and economic issues laid down six points as part of the Aquino administration's mining agenda.

These include the declaration of the primacy of national laws over local laws allowing small-scale mining, which has set off criticisms from governors.

President Aquino was supposed to sign the EO, considered to be a "game changer" in the country's mining development, last week. He said he did not do so because he was "not

6 POINTS, A10

Cops donate drum of coins to Red Cross

By Maricar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE PHILIPPINE National Red Cross has received a fresh infusion of funds—P82,000 in coins seized in police raids against illegal gambling operations in Laguna province, officials said yesterday.

The coins were retrieved from 181 gaming machines confiscated during raids over the

LAGUNA, A20

Singapore grad students have more fun in Bicol town

By Mar S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LIBON, a small but rich agricultural town in the third district of Albay province, has the potential to become a rural tourism hub in the Bicol region.

A group of senior management students from Singapore's foremost university, who recently visited the province in June, thinks so.

The 27-member Senior Management Program (SMP) students of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY SPP) of the National University of Singapore, which ranks No. 2 among the top universities in

SINGAPORE, A17

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WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2 P.M.	16 23
5 P.M.	6 22
9 P.M.	15 14
SUERTRES 2 P.M.	0 3 9
5 P.M.	8 7 5
9 P.M.	3 5 6

SIX DIGIT (Tuesday draw)	9 1 8 1 3 0
6/42 LOTTO, 6/55 MEGA	3 10 11 14 21 22
	P6,530,355.00
SUPER LOTTO 6/49	5 13 13 14 27 37
	P16,000,000.00

LOTTO, SUPER Draw 3PM LOTTO, result by 4PM. PCSO.gov.ph

No kidnapping, Gazmin insists

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DEFENSE Secretary Voltaire Gazmin yesterday said he was still unconvinced that a Jordanian TV reporter and two Filipino cameramen were really being held hostage by Islamic extremists in Sulu but the military would launch rescue operations if they are ordered to do so by the crisis management committee in Sulu.

Gazmin said reports from Lt. Gen. Noel Coballes, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Mindanao Command, indicated the Saker Ayoni, Southeast Asian bureau chief of the Doha-based Al Arabiya network, Filipino cameramen Rumdito Vela and midseaman Dakmalo Lasanes "are freely moving in rebel camps in Maimbung."

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry and Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo had confirmed on Friday that the media team, which were missing on June 12, were now being held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf Group.

Robredo revealed that contact with the captors was made with the local company of the cameramen on Friday.

The military has expressed disdain at media's attempts to interview and government rebels. Sultan Gen. Mahakim Ibn earlier lashed out the two Filipinos for "following more than fool," referring to Ayoni. The journalist was rumored to be working on a documentary on the Abu Sayyaf, a shadowy group linked to the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network in Indonesia and other parts of southeast Asia.

Gazmin said Coballes had told "them were sightings" of the roaming media team.

"Reports resulted them that the Jordanians were moving around with his crew from camp to another, in the Abu Sayyaf camp, and the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) camp," Gazmin added.

"So from that you can really deduce that he is not a captive," Gazmin told reporters on Tuesday.

"It's not a conclusion. You can go around, you can move from the MNLF to the Abu Sayyaf. If you are a captive, you cannot leave the camp. That's a normal deduction," he went on.

Gazmin said Coballes did not say whether Ayoni and his companions were accompanied by armed men.

"That was not included in the report. The report just said they were going around," Gazmin said.

The Jordanian Embassy has been said Ayoni was abducted while on an assignment.

Gazmin said their information was that Ayoni was in the country to cover the release of a hostage by the Abu Sayyaf.

But Gazmin said military troops will abide by any order from the crisis management committee of Basilan, Sulu.

"Our troops are on standby. We are ready to move anytime. We are monitoring. We know exactly where they are, where [they're] moving, be if there's an order to rescue, then we will do our part," he claimed.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), which represents more than 600,000 journalists in 31 countries, last week joined its affiliate, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), in expressing concern for the safety of a Filipino crew and reporter and his two Filipino crew members.

In 2008, an ABS-CBN crew led by TV reporter Ces Oreña was held for a week by Abu Sayyaf rebels. At some points in their captivity they were beaten and threatened with beheading, the cameramen in October's team later reported.

Recto joins clamor vs $1-B IMF loan

By Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

EVEN a senior ally of President Aquino is questioning the wisdom of the government decision to lend $1 billion to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help some of the troubled eurozone countries.

Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday asked whether the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) could lend the money without approval from Congress, which created the central bank.

"I'm not totally opposing it but how can the government, through the BSP, lend money to the IMF without coming to Congress?" Recto said in a statement.

He said the BSP could not claim "sole proprietary right over the country's dollar reserves"—from which the loan to the IMF will be sourced—and "should seek concurrence first or secure appropriation from Congress."

In justifying the $1-billion loan, Malacañang said the Philippines had an "obligation to the IMF [which] has assisted us during our times of crisis."

The country was on the receiving end of loans from the multilateral agency for four decades. It is now considered a "creditor nation" after it fully paid its debt in 2006.

Recto, a member of the President's Liberal Party, said the public "must also be made to understand why the government is lending to the IMF while it conspicuously borrows from international banking and multilateral institutions for development support and deficit spending."

The senator, who chairs the ways and means committee, said the dollar reserves could be loaned instead to the national government which could then use it to "boost consumption" and finance infrastructure projects such as hospitals and school buildings.

"Spending is to boost consumption is the better way to protect us from contagion," he said.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda yesterday lashed out at critics who said the $1 billion would be better spent on the country's poor.

He said that to say that the government was not addressing the needs of Filipinos was a "total fallacy," and that people who say this should look at what the Aquino administration has been doing the past two years.

"Our budget for the CCT [conditional cash transfer program] for next year is P62 billion. That's effectively $1 billion and, on top of that, we've got other programs. We've got our assistance [for] irrigation, we've got our universal health coverage," Lacierda said.

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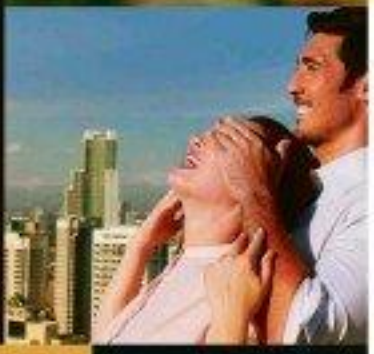

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My HK employer did not fire me, says cancer-stricken OFW

By Tina G. Santos

IT WAS a bittersweet homecoming for Leonida Antipuesto, a 4-year-old domestic helper in Hong Kong who has been diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer.

"I think this was the right time for me to go home. If(I) stay a year and spend time with my family," a visibly weak Antipuesto, who has worked in Hong Kong for 20 years, told reporters on arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2 on Monday afternoon.

She was accompanied home by her eldest daughter, Dylan, who herself works as a domestic helper in the Chinese Special Administrative Region.

She first left Antipuesto worrying over the recent weight loss.

She doubted that it was her decision to come home, contrary to a report in yesterday's business that said she was fired by her employer of 14 years when he learned she had cancer.

"I think it's unfair to my employer. He was very nice to me. He gave me my salary even though I had not been doing much work," said Antipuesto.

She said her excitement at coming home turned to anxiety on reaching the "noisy airport" less hours before boarding her plane to Hong Kong.

"It was me who decided to come home because I feel very weak already. My employer could have easily terminated me but he did not. Even while I was confined in the hospital, he was giving me my salary. He was very supportive of me, that's why I feel embarrassed he might read the erroneous report," Antipuesto said.

At the airport, the wheelchair-bound Antipuesto was met by activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes and some former overseas Filipino workers, including Lisa, a breast cancer survivor.

"We're here to show our support for Nida," said Reyes, who is OAV trained as the support group Bahay Ka for cancer victims and survivors among Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

Reyes admitted to a later intervention that he was the source of the erroneous news report. He said he assumed Antipuesto had been terminated by her employer because this was usually what happened to cases of OFWs who became seriously ill in Hong Kong.

"Based on experience, many OFWs feel their contracts terminated after their employers learned they had cancer. So I assumed it was the same in the case of Nida. I assumed her contract was not renewed. But now she says it was the other way around. She was the one who decided not to renew her contract which expires in October," Reyes said.

Dylan said she had conflicting emotions about her mother's homecoming.

"I feel happy and sad at the same time. Happy because she's finally home but sad because of her condition," she said.

She said she had decided to remain in the Philippines and not return to Hong Kong to take care of her ailing mother.

An archdiocesan arranged for by the Diocesan Pastoral Welfare Administration took Antipuesto from the airport to her home in Baguio City.

PNP bids out ₱1.2-B gun deal

By Ely Ng

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) will start accepting bids on Thursday for the purchase of almost 60,000 pistols, worth an estimated P1.2 billion in a bid to arm all of its police officers.

The public bidding begins at 2 p.m. of June 28 in the main conference room of the PNP's Camp Crame headquarters, the PNP bids and awards committee (BAC) announced yesterday.

The P1.2 billion procurement would fill 100 percent of the PNP's short firearms requirement, PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Generoso Cerbo Jr. said in a statement.

Interior Secretary Jose Rono Jr. earlier said that a total of 63 percent of PNP officers had been provided with short firearms.

This will be one of the PNP's biggest procurements since the establishment of the Capability Enhancement Program, aimed at modernizing the PNP and upgrading equipment, and Director General Nicanor Bartolome, the PNP deputy chief for operations.

In the prebidding conference on June 7, at least seven companies expressed interest to join the bidding for the 59,904 units of 9 millimeter handguns, Cerbo said. The price is estimated at ₱1,200 billion.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, or the Government Procurement Act, he said.

The company that comes in as the lowest calibrated/quoted bid (LCB/LCQ) will have undergone qualification procedures, including a 20,000-round "endurance test" for the weapon to ensure its reliability and durability.

'Dindo' is now a storm—Pagasa

AN ACTIVE low pressure area over east of Guiuan has developed into a storm, the weather bureau said yesterday.

At 4 p.m. Tuesday tropical depression "Dindo" was swirling over the Philippine Sea some 470 kilometers east northeast of Virac, packing maximum winds of 55 kilometers per hour.

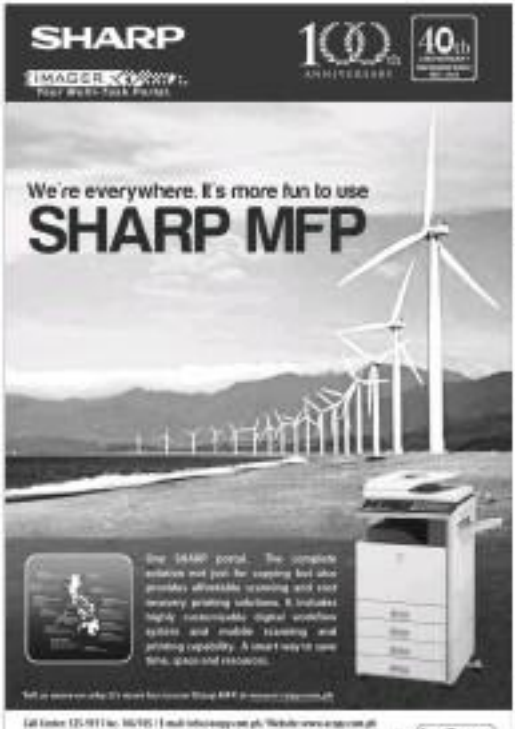
It will initiate occasional monsoon rains over Visayas and Mindanao that would become frequent over their western sections, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in its 5 p.m. bulletin.

The weather services will experience moderate to heavy rains," forecaster Blanca Fidalgo said by phone.

Southern Luzon would experience cloudy skies with scattered to widespread rainshowers and thunderstorms that could trigger flash floods and landslides. The rest of Luzon would be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

"It has no direct effect on Metro Manila. Metro Manila will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms," Fidalgo said.

The depression, moving west northwest at 35 kph, could make landfall in the Samar group of islands and further intensify into a storm, he said. TJ Burgonio



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Death of actor-director Mario O'Hara stuns filmdom

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTOR-director Mario O'Hara died at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City yesterday. He was 68.

According to O'Hara's brother, Jerry, his brother died of a heart attack, a complication of his acute leukemia, which was diagnosed only this month.

"He had been conscious. He still looked healthy despite his illness. His heart simply gave up," said Jerry.

O'Hara had been in and out of the hospital for the past two months, his brother said. He was first brought to hospital last May, suffering from pneumonia. "But registered a mild heart attack. He had been confined for three weeks," Jerry said.

He was discharged for a week but his condition worsened and he had to be taken back to hospital.

"He felt weak. He lost his appetite and the small amount of food he ate, he vomited," Jerry recalled. It was around this time that O'Hara's leukemia was diagnosed.

O'Hara underwent his first chemotherapy session on June 10, according to Jerry. O'Hara, naturally refused the cancer treatment. "His doctors had told him, 'give medicine a chance to work on you,' but my brother replied, 'doon din naman ang usap ko' (I'm going to die anyway). He had bouts of desperation. His family tried to encourage him, to keep him fighting."

"My brother fought for his life. He stood his ground. He even managed to fight his depression. He made some of his closest friends visit him to cheer him up. The day before he died, he even ate a big serving of his favorite cuttle cuttle (pinoyed rice cake)."

O'Hara, a native of Zamboanga, collaborated with the late National Artist for Film Lino Brocka in the 1970s in such celebrated films as "Insiang" and "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang."

He first headlined a film production was in the latter film, playing the role of a leper.

During the 1990s, O'Hara became active in theater as a playwright, stage actor and director, receiving awards for dramas "Sino si Sixto Rodriguez?" and the Philippine Educational Theater Association.

In 2004, he directed the award-winning "Bahay Na Bituminous." O'Hara's last film feature, "Ang Tagpiliba ni Andrei Bonifacio," was an entry to the 2008 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.

In 2011, he directed a drama series for TV5, "Sa Ngalan ng Ina," starring his friend, stage actress Nora Aunor, with whom he had worked in a number of acclaimed movies—"Tatlong Taong Pinaong Ofyor," "Bakit Bughaw ang Langit," "Bulaklak sa City Jail" and "Condemned."

Some his colleagues and friends were stunned at the sudden passing of O'Hara.

Aunor expressed "shock and sadness" on learning of her friend's death. "He could still give so much to our countrymen through his movies," she told the Inquirer.

Jerry said O'Hara was working on a film with director Joel Lamangan. "He had started a piece on The Beastie called Antonio Luna," he said. He was a good mentor."

Another veteran actress Perla Bautista said: "He treated everyone with respect. Whenever I worked with him, I really felt that he valued my contribution as an actress. I will miss his friendship."

Veteran actress Anita Linda said: "I am so sad. He was a good man."

Another veteran actress Perla Bautista said: "He treated everyone with respect. Whenever I worked with him, I really felt that he valued my contribution as an actress. I will miss his friendship."

"He was my leading man in 'Tatsulok.' He was one of the best," said actress Caridad Sanchez.

Scriptwriter Ricky Lee remembers with fondness the invigorating conversation he had with Brod Mario. "He understood the heart of a writer," he said.

Producer Bobby Tan said: "He never got mad on the set. He was always cool."

Many industry colleagues took to Facebook and Twitter to pay their respects.

"Working with you has been one of the greatest and most memorable moments of my life as an actress, but most importantly, as a human being," said Lance Raymundo, who played the role of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo in "Ang Pagbitay ni Andres Bonifacio."

"Thanks for trusting me like a family member and for always being generous with your gold stars and good advice. The love and friendship that the whole O'Hara family has shown me is something I will treasure forever. You will live forever in the hearts and minds of all Filipinos," Raymundo wrote.

Alfred Vargas, who played Bonifacio in "Sigbin," said: "We just lost one of the most brilliant Filipino directors of all time. Which is expect from Boyet/ Sen Jhoge Jr.

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Tax cheat no-show at sentencing

By Lolit B. Salaverria

CONVICTED multilevel marketer Gloria Kintanar failed to show up at her sentencing for tax evasion at the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) yesterday, citing inconvenience and dizziness, which prompted the court to reset the promulgation of judgment against her.

The CTA's former Second Division which heard the case moved the sentencing to Monday. This time, Kintanar will be arrested if she fails to show up again, division chair Justice Juanito Castañeda Jr. said.

The court also issued a hold departure order to ensure Kintanar does not leave the country if she does not appear on Monday.

Quabral, in an interview, said Kintanar's lawyer had informed him that she was ill and would not be able to come.

The CTA is expected to enforce its 2009 ruling ordering Kintanar to from one to four years in prison and ordering her to pay P6.3 million in tax deficiencies. The Supreme Court earlier upheld this ruling.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue filed the charges against Kintanar for her failure to file income tax returns for 2000 and 2001.

The BIR said she had made a substantial amount of money as a contractor of Forever Living Products.

In her defense, Kintanar said she had entrusted the filing of her income tax returns to her husband who hired an accountant.

At yesterday's hearing, Quabral told the court Kintanar's husband had informed him that she was ill and would not be able to come.

Quabral presented a medical certificate from Biomedian Medical and Health Clinic stating that Kintanar was suffering from hypertension and severe dizziness. He told the court that as far as he knows, Kintanar was at home.

He said he was filing a motion to postpone the proceedings after Kintanar earlier filed a motion in the Supreme Court for reconsideration of its ruling dismissing her petition against her conviction.

He noted that Kintanar's petition—which argues that her motion was only dismissed on a technicality and should have been tackled on its merits—was still pending.

THE ORCHARD

Happy 98th Birthday

to our Founding Chairperson

HELENA Z BENITEZ

From the Members, Directors, Management and Staff of
THE ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

TITA HELEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

AS SENATOR OF THE PHILIPPINES (1969-1971)

As chair of the Senate Committees on Natural Resources, of Provincial and Municipal Governments and Cities, and of Housing, Urban Development and Resettlement (created during her incumbency with her as original chairperson) convened hearings, studies, investigations and considerations that resulted in significant "firsts":

1. The first ever comprehensive report on the State of the Philippine Environment, 1971. The report was the Philippine Government's input to the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) in Stockholm, Sweden.
2. Congressional Joint Resolution No. 1 adopted by both Houses of Congress "establishing basic policies which shall guide the country in its efforts to bring about social and economic development through environmental planning."
3. RA 5752 - The Municipal Forests and Watersheds Act - "Every municipality and city shall establish, develop and maintain a permanent forest and watershed within such municipality or city with a area equivalent to at least two percent of its entire area."
4. RA 6147 - The Philippine (monkey-eating) Eagle Protection Act.
5. RA 6169 - The Tamaraw Sanctuaries Act - in Mts. Iraya and Igib in Mindoro.
6. Chaired the Philippine delegation to UNCHE; delivered the country paper; was elected Chair of UNCHE Committee One.

IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD

1. Led Philippine delegation to UNCHE, 1972.
2. Hailed as first Asian, Filipina and woman President of the Governing Council of the UN Environment Program (UNEP), 1975.
3. Developed the concept of Sustainable Development in association with Lady Barbara Ward and Anthropologist Margaret Mead.
4. Led Philippine delegation to UNEP Session of a Special Character (UNCHE +10), 1982.
5. Served as Special Adviser to Director General Maurice F. Strong in the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), otherwise known as the Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, 1992 (UNCHE +20).
6. Supported the institutionalization at UN New York of the HDR Global Forum on Women and Sustainable Development, 2006, NGO initiated, ECOSOC accredited side event in reservoir of the UN Council of Sustainable Development.

AS EDUCATOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEADER

- Established and endowed the Philippine Women University Institute of Education and Management for Environment and Habitat, 1992 (now PWU School of Environment and Habitat).
- With her speech HOME ECONOMICS IN THE TIME OF GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE, inspired the Philippine Home Economics Association (PHEA) to make the home economics curriculum responsive to global warming and climate change, 2008.
- Continues her environmental advocacy whenever appropriate in her public appearances.

THE ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB:

Continuing the legacy of Tita Helen's environmental advocacy

Dolphy smiling again, doc says

By Marinel R. Cruz

COMEDY king Dolphy has smiled for the first time since he was hospitalized for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) last week, his family announced yesterday.

"His nurse also seemed to be heightened since he has also become ticklish again. Consequently, he can also feel pain now...this has shown in his facial expression and movement from time to time," said Dr. Eric Nubla Jr., doctor-in-charge of Makati Medical Center (MMC), where the 83-year-old comedian has been confined at the intensive care unit (ICU) since June 16.

Nubla said that the comedian was already feeling pain with "a good sign. This means that his senses were functioning, his body is growing compared to the previous days."

The doctor added that Dolphy's "platelet count has risen but was still considered at a low level. This was why he still had blood transfusion."

Nubla also said the comedian would resume kidney dialysis on Wednesday. "Today was his rest day," Nubla added. "However, his recovery was still hard to quantify. He's still in a critical state, but stable. He's taking things one day at a time. The family members need to be very assured of their father's condition, now they're happy."

Nubla then said the family has decided to be stricter on its policy on visitation. "For visitors who wish to see him, please contact a family member first for clearance," the doctor stressed.

He explained that this was because Dolphy's immune system was weak. Another reason was that the family also wants to protect his privacy."

According to Dolphy's son, former actor Rudy Quinsos, a celebrity reporter caused a commotion in the hospital on Monday night after attempting to take a photo of the comedian at the ICU.

Across the NATION

US grant to fund Samar road network

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The government will start in September the construction of a $214-million 220-kilometer road network in Samar that will draw funds from the US government under a grant that the Philippines became qualified to receive by meeting goals set by the Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC).

The Samar road network will cover nine towns and a city in two provinces on the island—Samar and Eastern Samar—according to the project engineer, Rodolfo Arias.

Arias said the road network, which falls under the two-country National Roads Improvement Project (NRNIP), will start in September and be completed in May 2016, about a month before President Aquino ends his six-year term.

The project is being funded by MCC and involves the construction of new roads and bridges.

Arias said better roads could help improve the economy of Samar, one of the country's most impoverished areas, and the lives of its people.

Impoverished area

"Samar is one of the poorest provinces in the country but with better and improved road conditions, we expect trade and commerce to improve," Arias said.

"There will be a faster transfer of goods and services," he added.

The road project, he said, has so far finished on schedule or beads allotted for it will have to be returned to the US government.

If that happens, he said, the Philippine government would have to continue financing the unfinished portions of the project.

Arias, however, expressed confidence that the project will be finished on time.

"Our only problem is the weather. If we continue to experience continuous rains in Samar, the project will be delayed," Arias said.

The road project is broken up into four phases but Arias said construction of projects under package 3 will start first because the design and the bidding processes have already been completed for that.

Package 3 will be 64-km long, covering the towns of Juban, Matnog and Bulan/Irosin and Barcelona Gity in Eastern Samar. Construction of this phase will start in September.

Package 1

Bidding for package 1 is set on July 16 and will cover 16 km in Barangays Buray and Tenani, both in Paranas town, Samar.

Bidding for package 2 has yet to be set. This will span 64 km, covering the towns of Paranas and Hinabangan in Samar's Basey, Salcedo and Taft in Eastern Samar.

RACE AGAINST TIME A barge arrives at Loboc by Bohol with merchandise worried Boholanos can reach its destination on time. Unloading takes about half an hour. LALAINE MANALILAD/CONTRIBUTOR

In Cagayan town, a bridge you can't cross

By Vaughn Ahrar
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LASAO, Cagayan—You cannot cross the bridge when you get there.

This is an idea many travelers struggle to get over with after their first encounter with the Magat Jr. overpass since bridge here was closed to traffic on June 8.

The 34-year-old bridge connects most Cagayan, Ilocos and Isabela to the rest of Cagayan, including the provincial and regional capital of Tuguegarao.

Vehicles are temporarily redirected to a detour facility where travelers ride on what both the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the town government provided: Two barges and two ferryboats, and five private passenger ferries.

The typical ferry ride may load 12 to 15 passengers, who are all required to wear life vests. These operate from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and load up to 40 times their capacities on regular days and 50 times on peak days. The ferries charge P10 per head, said Primitivo Belcon III, a boat supervisor. The barges, on the other hand, can take 18 and 15 tons of load.

However, vehicles may still build up because loading and unloading may both take 20-30 minutes.

Dalan Gatongan, a traffic enforcer, said heavy traffic of ten occurs between 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. and may stretch as long as 6 km of kilometers.

"Travelers will find traveling hard," said Lee Calado, 37, a vegetable vendor from Baliwanan town, who transports about 1,000 kilos of vegetables from Nueva Vizcaya twice a week.

Calado is already worried that the fare from Magapit to Baliwanan, just two kilometers away, may rise the same from Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya, to Magapit and that his products might not reach over at all.

Conor Bulagao, 46, a rice mill manufacturer, travels once a month from hometown Malig, Isabela, to Lasa, Aparan. He said that he would prefer My deliver a ton mill unit to Nueva via Magapit.

"It is better [to rehabilitate the bridge] now to prevent endangering people. It will be harder if they wait for it to crash," said Boy Bangalisi, 51, from Lugo, one of the Lallo villages isolated from the town proper.

The P1.65-million rehabilitation project, originally scheduled for May 18, was moved to June 8 because piling and core tracks had to transport people over through the bridge in May, said Provincial Board Member Jessie Guiss.

The project will reimburse the already deteriorating concrete and replace some steel cables on the approaches of the hanging bridge.

Bangalisi, a driver of a motorcycle modified to accommodate passengers, is one of the many who are profiting from the temporary setup. The docks on both sides of the river are already teeming with restaurants, sari-sari stores, and stalls selling agricultural produce.

On the other hand, rain drivers are suffering. On June 8, rains from the monsoon front resumed their trips to Tuguegarao. Two were stalled in the docks for 20 hours, said George Carmona, an officer of a van association in Sta. Praxedes town.

Dondago Layug, a van driver on the Magapit-Tuguegarao route, said his earnings dipped from P1,200 on a few hundred pesos. He also had to pay P400 for loading, parking and bag gage carriers at the eastern dock. Drivers on the other dock also paid fees for those services.

HOMETOWN *Snapshot*

Soldiers find Internet good medium to air rap vs abuses

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Soldiers have turned to the Internet to expose hazing and other abuses allegedly committed by a military officer, who may soon face a military tribunal.

The court-martial of Lt. Jake Alcober has been recommended by Col. Gregorio Pio Catapang, head of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade, after video clips were shown in the "Llamas Mo" citizen journalism website of CLTV36, a regional TV network in Central Luzon.

The clips show a man in Army uniform whipping one man with a paddle. One footage shows the same man playing a card game with men who appear to be his subordinates.

Catapang identified the man as Alcober, the former head of the 73rd Division Reconnaissance Company based in Aringay, Pangasinan.

"What he did is a very serious offense and negates our new campaign plan that gives importance to discipline and good behavior," Catapang said.

Catapang said Maj. Gen. Alan Lupia, the 7th Infantry Division commander, is "not known to tolerate serious lapses in leadership and good behavior among our officers."

Before the video went public, Catapang said he had relieved Alcober from his duties as company commander because of "poor performance" and for being "notorious in the misbehavior" of some of his men.

The last offense was related to the military's activities in a village rubbish area not identified.

Alcober "has been restricted to camp in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija for investigation, Catapang said.

The last case tried to reach Alcober on Friday but he did not respond to calls and text messages.

Alcober joined the service through the Armed Forces of the Philippines Officer Candidate School where he graduated in 2006.

In an affidavit dated April 20, six soldiers filed a complaint against Alcober for several violations including Art. 97 of Presidential Decree No. 1008 and 1836, for the conversion of finance and loan into cities. Bacoor has an annual income of P674 million, population of 441,197 and a land area of 52.40 sq km, while Imus has an income of P531 million, population of 253,186 and land area of 171 sq km.

36,226 residents ratify Bacoor's conversion into city

By Marissa Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BACOOR in Cavite is now officially a city after 36,226 of its residents voted "yes" in favor of the town's conversion into a city.

Aessie Lacuesta, Bacoor municipal elections officer, announced the results of the plebiscite which drew 40,080 votes on June 23. Only 3,854 residents rejected the conversion.

Commission on Elections regional officer for Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) on Monday said the plebiscite results ratified the new status of Bacoor as a city.

Another Cavite town, Imus, is set to hold a plebiscite on its conversion into a city on June 30.

Cavite Gov. Juanito Victor "Jonvic" Remulla Jr. said he believed most of the towns becoming cities in the next 10 years.

"They are even more qualified to become cities than the other municipalities that tried for city status," Remulla said, referring to the towns of Kawit, Tanza, Naic, General Trias, General Mariano Alvarez (GMA), Carmona, Silang and Alfonso. Cavite is currently composed of 19 municipalities and four cities.

According to the Local Government Code, a municipality is required to meet at least two of the three minimum requirements to become a city: An annual income of P100 million, a population of 150,000 and a contiguous territory of 100 square kilometers.

President Aquino in April signed republic Act Nos. 10360 and 10361 for the conversion of Bacoor and Imus into cities. Bacoor has an annual income of P674 million, population of 441,197 and a land area of 52.40 sq km, while Imus has an income of P531 million, population of 253,186 and land area of 171 sq km.

Native pigs bring ₱140M to Marinduque

By Gerald Gene R. Querubin
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BOAC, Marinduque—Raising native pigs has grown into a P100-million industry in this province, according to Marinduque's top veterinarian.

Last year alone, according to provincial veterinarian Dr. Josefa Victoria, the province sold 84,016 native pigs with an estimated value of P140.6 million.

Records at the Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) showed that in 2010, 48,968 organized hog growers pigs were sold, raising for pig raisers in the province a gross income of P107.7 million.

Victoria said the amounts could be higher since PVO came up with the figures based only on what he said were modest estimates.

If the weight of each pig sold would be taken into consideration, Victoria said the figures would be much higher because native pigs in the province weigh from 20 to 35 kilograms each.

Half of the province's pigs are shipped out while the other half are consumed locally, said the provincial veterinarian.

The province appears to be on track to maintain its sales record this year. As of May 31 that year, Victoria's office has recorded at least 37,342 pigs sold.

Gov. Jose Reyes Marinduque are usually sought by meat dealers and dealers from Metro Manila because the island has long been declared free from foot-and-mouth disease and because the province's native pigs are round-and-short for roasting.

Hog growers in other parts of the country are cut of luck here, however.

Many hog growers in Cotabato, Davao and Luzon are complaining of dwindling sales as a result of the untabated smuggling of pork in the country.

No action has been taken, however, on the continuing smuggling of pork and other meat products into the country despite protests made by local hog growers that their industry is dying as a result of imported meat flooding the markets.

The hog growers threatened to go on a pork holiday to demonstrate their disappointment over the failure of government to act on their complaints.

NATIVE pigs in Marinduque are raised inside pens, fed by a tray or two with morning around the pens.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

THE WHITE GOLD hue of sand that Mt. Pinatubo spewed out in its June 1991 eruptions is washed down by rains to rivers, bringing income to truckers and the provincial government, which has collected over P100 million in fees and taxes. INQUIRER PHOTO

In Pampanga, Pinatubo sand is gold

By Tonyton Dungca
Porac, Pampanga

LAHAR WASHED down by rains from the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo is the lesser of worries of Freddie Enriquez, Alan Gaspar and Normando Punzalan, on the 21st anniversary of the volcano's June 1991 eruptions.

The more supply that rains replenish on the Sbalg-Porac-and Porac-Gumain rivers, the more that the rivers turn into gold and a thousand other residents of Porac town in Pampanga are happy.

Enriquez is in the businesses of hauling and selling sand; Gaspar—who cut a living as a "founder" or one who loads loaders in sites where sand and gravel are of good quality; Punzalan serves as village chief of Mancatian Pasig, which has received P24.841 million in shares from the P150 sand tax that the provincial government collected from every truckload from July 2010 to April this year, a low price to pay in a community located by volcanic debris.

Province-wide, the outlook is more positive because quarry collections have steadily increased, says Vice Gov. Lilia Pineda of Pampanga.

From out of the P150 administrative fee and P150 sand tax that holders of 80 quarry permits pay for each truckload, the administration of Gov. Lilia Pineda generated P567,567 million from July 2010 to June 13 this year, making sand the biggest source of local income, reports showed. The provincial government has increased the administrative fee to P200 starting February.

"The tragedy spawned by the eruptions also brought us blessings, like sand," says Gaspar. The disaster, which lingered for a decade, was unprecedented in several ways and many regard it as the most serious challenge to the resiliency of Kapampangans.

"The headwash set by Ateneo Sti. Daniel Gov. Eddie Ilustillo) is being replicated and will hopefully be exceeded by [Pineda]," says lawyer Andrew Pangilinan, provincial administrator and head of the quarry task force, Bulsan.

Pangilinan, a Catholic priest, has advised residents that included requiring permit holders to pay in the provincial treasurer's office, not at checkpoints.

In three years, the capital collected P641.305 million, or five times more than the P120.981 million after during the six years that Manuel "Lito" Lapid, now a senator, and his son, Mark, served as governors.

Income leaks

Pinatilla says income leaks were discovered in his time as some checkpoint personnel and quarry operators conspired to cheat the government.

Also in the coffers of the provincial government, says Pangilinan, is the more than P300 million that Pinatilla deposited in a bank while a case contesting Ordinance No. 276 was pending. The provincial board passed the ordinance in support of the clamor of mayors to make the entire P500 million the subject of income sharing, leaving nothing to the governor to cast for moral. Losing and regaining the quarry industry.

The board withdrew the ordinance during Pineda's term.

Still, the amounts accumulated during the terms of Pinatilla and Pineda are higher than the P392.783 million that the state-owned Natural Resources Development Corp. collected between 1990 and 2000.

Enrique and Enriquez are benefiting from the high collections. Their 33 percent and 40 percent shares, respectively, in the P150 sand tax totaled P113.632 million (July 2009-June 2010) and P163.781 million (July 2010-April this year). The provincial government's 30 percent share is returned to the general fund.

No accounting

There is no accounting of how quarry shares are spent and the Commission on Audit does not look into it. But the recent figures, Gaspar notes, are signs of a more efficient system.

The capital maintains 212 employees working on three shifts at Mt. Pinatubo area to "indicate a system where conditions for the commission of graft is little or none at all," says Pangilinan. The salaries and benefits of Bulsan employees have been raised.

Pangilinan denies reports that relatives of Pinatilla are in quarrying or that the governor allows mayors to use gravel-rock permits for commercial sand trade.

He discusses information sent to the business that the capital "forces [permit holders] to pay for more trucks to show high collections" are untrue.

Officials admit that the provincial government's anti-overloading drive has been delayed, unable to stop the deterioration of national and local roads and bridges.

Gobio suggests the participation of stakeholders and the computerization of the payment system to improve collections further. "We have to look into the future ... the system may be abused," he says.

Wanted: Baguio 'Witches'

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

WITH THE RECENT death of Cecile Afable at 95, if not the oldest editor in the country then the one who held a weekly column the longest (her "In and Out of Baguio" in the Baguio Midland Courier ran continuously from 1946 until June 2012), Baguio City has only one of the famous "Three Witches" left.

Lennon Sai Agustin, the country's first woman chemical engineer and curator of the Baguio Museum, (aka "The Witch of Junglewear") died in November last year after a lingering illness. Afable (aka "The Witch of Indio Bajao") died on June 12.

Virginia de Guia, the city's only woman mayor and hotel-motel-resort owner, (aka "The Witch of Leisure Lane") is the only one left, so the remaining two were asked to hand down wisdom.

Formal designation: "The Wayward Sisters, hand in hand, Praters of the fen and land: ... (Shakespeare, Macbeth)" also "Three pesky women who get in the way of most development of Baguio."

Set: Outside.

Action: Hit and shoot. Ageism has nothing to do with it but in this job, it is a must that the witch should have seen Baguio in its youth. No amount of watching old movies on Baguio or downloading old photographs can qualify one for this. One should know what it feels like to walk to Burnham Park in the morning and inspect the frosted meadows.

One should have been used to seeing families and May brothers, as well as welcoming the monkeys coming down on bicycles as they passed by a zigzag road. Where one heard the n-g-ro, Angeles, his or her first impulse is to just freeze and pray for blessings, as residents did decades ago. One remembers that time when everyone older was called either "Uncle" or "Auntie."

Remember: One should spend at least half a century in Baguio. Those who were abroad and returned like they knew everything were with Baguio and can rate it, please pack your luggage and don't come back. We can, however, bring along the spoiled "Baguio" brooms, which we all know come from La Union or Nueva Vizcaya.

(Special qualifications)

1. One should know how to meditate the people.

2. One should laugh like a true-blue witch and know how to hold her drink. Humor is very important. One must laugh at the graves of your enemies and lovers.

3. One hasn't should be in the right place.

4. One should be very intelligent. Its intelligent ones can beat ones to the battle of wits with a single sequence. Its intelligent one can beat the late recognizes Ferdinand Marcos in a college debate.

5. As the Witch of Indio Bajao loved to say one must be the "keeper." No ifs and buts.

6. One's children should be as good as you. But not better.

7. Dancing skills highly required. See us to ballroom dancing but in the various indigenous dances.

8. One must be a connoisseur of the arts.

THE ORIGINAL THREE WITCHES OF BAGUIO: (From left) The late historian/artist Cecile Afable, former Mayor Virginia de Guia and the late museum curator Lennon Sai Agustin. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

One must write well.

9. One must have balls in a manner of speaking. One must face off with the mayor and cost budge an inch. One must not be willing to lead protest rallies and tell police officers, "I used to kick the butts of your fathers who were also policemen."

10. Leadership and negotiation skills required. Leadership and management traits, legit to Harvard, ADU, etc. will serve be as-

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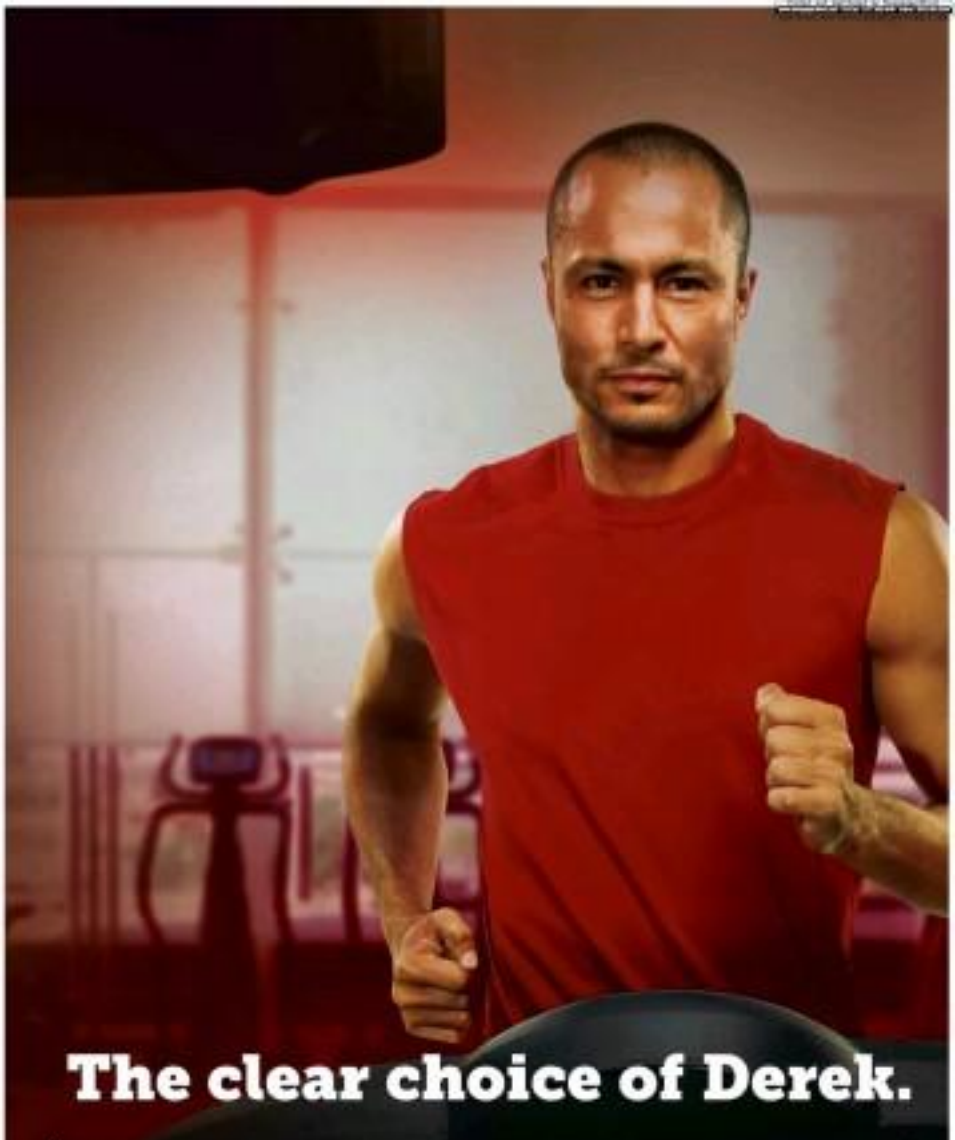

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Fish stories

EDITORIAL

ON ITS face, the ramming of a Philippine fishing boat by a vessel of purported Chinese ownership and the fishermen's struggle to survive radio for gripping reading, rather like an adventure on the high seas where the heroes keep themselves alive on little more than grit and rainwater. But occurring as it does during a standoff between the Philippines and China over Panatag Shoal [Scarborough Shoal], it comes across as an act of aggression, particularly in the wake of a China News Agency report quoting the director of the People's Liberation Army Navy as ordering its officers to intercept and search Philippine vessels that linger in the area. Philippine authorities were quick to douse any heightened flag-waving ardor, with President Aquino himself voicing that the encounter was yet inconclusive. And Vice Adm. Edmund Tan, the commander of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), was said to have categorically denied that the incident that occurred in sensitive off Bolinao, Pangasinan, was not related to the territorial dispute over Panatag.

But the story has gotten murky. According to the PCG, it was only the Hong Kong-registered cargo ship MV Pesoh Mountain that passed the area and came likely for and demolished the wooden fishing boat AOL John and then continued sailing. This would jibe with the account of fisherman Hermon Bolinvers, who recalled seeing the mark "Hong Kong," with Chinese characters below it, on the ship's stern. But Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin is now saying that Bolinvers's Bolinvers had volunteered a sworn statement saying the Pesoh Mountain had only passed the AOL John. Malacañang in likewise saying it was another Hong Kong-registered vessel that did the fishing boat in. The story has become as opaque as an overcast sky. What is clear as of this writing is that of the eight fishermen aboard the AOL John, four were rescued but one has since died, and four remain missing.

These are the circumstances as presented by the survivors: At noon of June 10 the AOL John was tied to an artificial reef in Bolinao waters—its two engines having died while the boat was being battered by huge waves as the previous night—when the cargo ship with the "Hong Kong" mark bore down on it and tore it apart. When the vessel (or a separate patrol) heedlessly unfindable for those who had only seconds earlier perceived the ship on their horizon), eight fishermen found themselves in the sea along with the detritus of their boat. They saw about for serviceable debris and hung on for dear life. By the next day, there were only four of them left, staying alive mainly replenishing on rainwater and the fish they had caught, and when that ran out, making do with chunks of the Styrofoam ice boxes that they had used to store their catch. They were rescued on June 23 by two fishermen from Mogpog, Boron Sea, and taken to a hospital in Virgin City. Unhappily, Christopher Carbonel, the youngest among them by dint of his age, grew up the ghost.

Stories of surviving long days of floating in the open sea never cease to amaze. But Pangasinan Rep. Jesus Celeste was reported surprised that the incident—apparently commonplace, indeed "normal" in the estimation of a "fisherman" like himself—had become a national issue. His astonishment seems to be that being rammed by a foreign vessel in Philippine waters is par for the course. But the unjaded observer would point out that the casualty count of one dead and four missing should still account for something, and that losing such incidents die to the water, as it were, would strengthen the culture of impunity that permeates Philippine life. As the AOL John owner recounted, this was the second time a large vessel had destroyed a boat of hers. A similar incident happened four years ago, she said, and two fishermen have yet to be found.)

Philippine authorities should make haste to look into the wrecking of the AOL John, ascertain the results of its investigation, and file the necessary charges. It is urgent that chain and courier long as he is used, to banish the suspicion that they are not securing fish stories in crucial corners. For example, the earlier announcement on China's supposed agreement to withdraw its vessels from Panatag said China's subsequent denial of such a concession never established in an unerring conviction. The confusion remains, with Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario saying on Monday that China had pulled out its fishing boats from Panatag's lagoon—and a Philippine Navy reconnaissance plane reportedly spotting at least six Chinese fishing vessels and 17 dinghies still in the disputed area.

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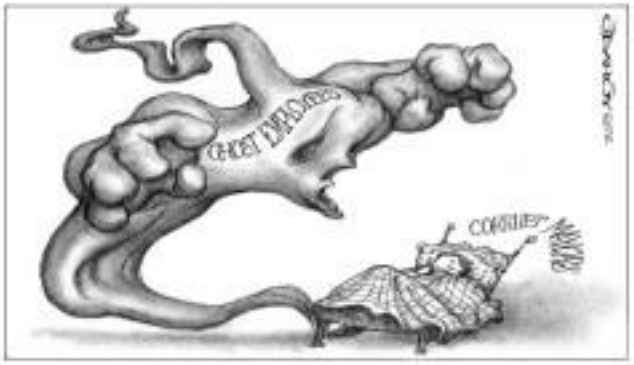

Dead bus franchises resurrected by LTFRB

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE IS an old saying that "you cannot get 10 pounds of e-1 in a five-pound bag." Which makes certain that those who run the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) are trying to do—put 10 pounds of e-1 in a five-pound bag.

It has just granted franchises for 4,000 units in the Edsa-Carousel routes to five bus companies even though the Edsa-Carousel has only 300 buses plying it every day. Too many vehicles. Many of the buses have only a few passengers; there are too many buses competing for the same passengers. Where will the LTFRB put the extra 4,000 buses?

Why is the LTFRB doing this? Probably because some while Edsa is already overcrowded, the pockets of some people are not.

The list lucky bus companies are Metro Line, Five Star, Bonus Transit, Five North Luzon Co. and Classic, all owned by one lucky (or ruthless, only history the Philippines can tell) family. The biggest bus operator in Luzon. All this buses pik chuse routes between Metro Manila and Central Luzon, and between Metro Manila and Northern Luzon.

The 4,000 represent the future fleet of the 1,100 buses of the long defunct Philippine Tourist Bus. The existing buses will be operated by the LTFRB until their franchise previously comes that do not touch Metro Manila—with very little commercial value.

The addition of 400 buses into the already clogged Metro Manila roads would create more chaos already unimaginable. You may recall that the LTFRB should do is reduce the number of vehicles in Metro Manila, not increase them. The award of the franchises violates the "travel to ban." But the Aquino administration wants every government agency to take. First mati ban. Second, they wouldn't be used by ordinary folks.

The validity of the Pantranco franchises expired in 1991. For the last two decades, the LTFRB and the Department of Transportation and Communications have been issuing calling cards—provisional franchises—that have been long expired and they can neither be sold nor transferred to other parties.

In January 2011, Rep. Angelo Palmones of the party-list Agbayan made an official inquiry with the LTFRB on the Pantranco issue and he was told that the buses had expired in 1991 and there was no legal basis for resurrecting them. Palmones is a member of the labor committee of the House of Representatives, which vets their hearing the cost of Pantranco workers.

Before the end of May, when everybody was glued to the impeachment trial, the LTFRB released 20 years of its meeting-days and awarded the Pantranco lines supposedly to its workers. The workers promptly sold their lines to the companies of the Ramsoder family descending to names, it sets a sale pre-arranged by people in the LTFRB, who packaged the whole name. They allegedly charged P-50,000 each for the 400 lines. The price tag for a precious line touching Metro Manila is P800,000 per line (franchise only), and the Ramsoders hardly grabbed the bargain.

This set of impunity by LTFRB's shooting buddy has installed this "travel to ban" policy and is a direct assault on the moratorium imposed by the DOTC on the grant of new lines. Only applications for maintenance and development routes are being processed.

As reported in the newspapers, even the most corrupt schemes in the Arroyo administration had legal trappings. No sign to remember the dishonest Pantranco lines. Have they realized that there could never be any credible legal basis to justify the revival of the long-expired lines.

Furthermore, the LTFRB has already lifted up the expired lines of Pantranco by awarding, a long time ago, the majority of the unserved lines to various bus companies serving Central Luzon and Northern Luzon.

This award of 400 lines is a single decision to run bus-crossing fatally but not here done in the 21 years of LTFRB's existence—that is, until now. And this happened during a regime, supposedly, of "tuwid na daan" and matuwid na daan.

The LTFRB has very strict prerequisites for extending provincial bus franchises. A representative is imposed on each bus. Each franchise has to be searched by a bus bus—one that is roadworthy and subject to LTFRB inspection—every year, but the Pantranco franchise, the LTFRB extended the franchises based on ghost buses. Because franchises do not down in the early 1960s, everything was gone: terminals, buses, support facilities, maintenance, etc. It is impervious for one individual or only operate for the purpose of extending the lines, without a bus owner?

Only last June 19, the 20th anniversary of the LTFRB, Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas, the guest of honor, enhanced the LTFRB officials and rank-and-file to read the register of "tuwid na daan" and "matuwid na daan"—and now this horrible revelation about the raising up of 400 lines from the dead and making millions of pesos out of them.

The association of Northern and Central Luzon Bus Operators has written a letter to Secretary Roxas protesting the resurrection of the dead franchises and the awarding of these franchises to one family. They say they were not notified of the hearing to resurrect and re-award the franchises. They were only alerted as a very few days before the decision of the hearing—to the dead franchises in a small newspaper.

"The award has no redeeming feature when, correct," the protesting bus operators wrote Roxas. "It was done with indecent haste. In fact, there was no Postal Office of Evidence, and the public was not given a chance to look into and comment on the applicant's evidence. Likewise, the opposition were given only up to May 31, 2012 to file their Position Paper (10 days from receipt of notice), but the decision was already promulgated on May 23, 2012. There was no transparency in the award, and now a single province of the Public Service Law was subsumed by the resurrection of the dead franchises."

Leave it to the artists

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RESPONDING TO the clamor, predictably from the entertainment industry, for Malacañang to name Dolphy national artist, P-Noy said Cayetano is in the station.

So Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda reported. "The President will believe that Dolphy has contributed immensely to the arts. But there is a process in selecting the national artist. There are several laws in nominating a national artist. We will honor it with both the NCCA and the CCP Executive Order are the two joint boards who will nominate the national artist."

Quite apart from that, he said, there's the Supreme Court TRO forbidding Malacañang from doing so. The TRO stemmed from a petition in 2009 filed by several national artists, led by Bienvenido Lumbera and Virgilio Almario, against Malacañang for awarding Carlo Caparas, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, Francisco Mañosa, and Jose "Pepe" Moreno national artists. The petitioners claimed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo committed "grave abuse of discretion" in doing so. The Court evidently agreed.

Malacañang, Lacierda said, has no desire to encroach on the powers of the judiciary.

It's a perfectly reasonable decision.

I do think Dolphy should be considered for the honor, is entitled to expressed some time ago. But reasonable as we are people can be unreasonable, if not immune. Of course his contributions to entertainment of the variety that one would be hard put to enumerate what they are and is considerable, if not immense. But if the first does not outweigh the second, it at least helps make up for it.

It's not just Dolphy's and those output that enamored Dolphy's color to him. Many have other figures in comedy, Dolphy helped define the Filipino sensibility, if not indeed his brand of humor. He didn't go for slapstick, a tradition inherited from vaudeville that is anathema to this day, he went for wry, subtle repartee and one-liners. His long-standing TV shows, "Iskul sa Malate" and "Home along Da River" in particular gave the Filipino a new vessel long of humorist, his foibles and capacity for goodness, his objections but especially for heroism. You could always discern with Dolphy's sitcoms' in the view of the times, attitudes, but they did leave a something in their wake.

Of course his output was uneven. But we might want to entertain more latitude there, given the harsh conditions in which artists work in this country. And to set restrictions to greater leeway than elsewhere. And when you start out poor to begin with, as Dolphy did, you're bound to make compromises along the way. Particularly where your ties, or capacity to feed your family—and I'm still haggled by the sublime irony of Dolphy being the quintessential guy of movies and the patriarch of a formidable tribe as real life—ties to an industry that is unacceptable to the vagaries of public taste. Or, as in the case of TV, to ratings.

But Malacañang is right, leave that to the artists to decide. The Supreme Court is TRO is endorsed. That is not a good issue. Art is an artistic one. This is not a political issue, this is an artistic one.

Of course what made Dolphy's oeuvre in some national artists unanimous, quite apart from the fact that it was politically motivated, indeed quite apart from that fact that—for once a fair president who could only make him accolades, are that she has absolutely no artistic bone in her body. The only aesthetic she appreciated, and practiced, was the art of corrupting people. But a president could have artistic inclinations—P-Noy likes music and buying CDs—and that is neither here nor there. Quite simply the President has no right, or business, legislating art and dictating artists, lovers of all artistical stripes.

Governments do not lack for ways to bump honor on artists. The Queen of England knighted the Beatles for their immeasurable contribution to music and not quite incidentally to Britain's coffers. But even the Queen was not content to stop there. So did Pinoy politicians in their own way, from Ferdinand Marcos to elevate them to similar positions of honor. It has long been Dolphy's dream to be conferred the Order of the Golden Heart in recognition of a lifetime of making Filipinos laugh and, not quite incidentally, cry in their hospitals lot. But even he cannot name Dolphy national artist.

However good the intentions, political meddling in artistic matters produces bad results. The very notion of proposing that the president, Pilipino in character, name Dolphy to any post is insulting to artists, national artist, however they are determined, does a disservice to art and artists. And it is strange that the entertainment community, which includes government artists, does not see this. It seduces, art is not another province created by public administrators, it is not a matter of patronage, expression, or allusion, or delusion that public officials are required to admire, or not more important than artists, they may intimidate in their concerns with impunity.

In fact the opposite is true. Artists are the ones who have to keep an eye on the rest of us. For all their lack of poise and circumspection, artists are more important than public officials. For all their lack of wealth and power, artists are richer and more powerful than politicians. For all their lack of pelf and privilege, artists occupy a higher station in life than politicians. Oh no, it should be on a matter that stands on its own and not on its head. Long after the public officials are gone, artists will be remembered. Long after public officials are dead, artists will be alive, if only in the words they left behind. Who now remembers Emperor Augustus? Who does not? Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?

Leave it to the artists. Who knows? They might decide in the end that Dolphy deserves to become national artist after all.

Down by law in Pakistan

WORLD VIEW

Shahid Javed Burki

ISLAMABAD – On June 19, in what it called a "short order," Pakistan's Supreme Court removed Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani as the country's prime minister, a post he had held for more than four years—longer than any of his 16 predecessors. For those who favour democracy in Pakistan, the court's decision is ironic, and for reasons, but for wholesome.

Gilani had been convicted twelve earlier of contempt of court, after he refused to comply with a court order directing him to write to Swiss authorities and demand that they reopen a money-laundering investigation against President Asif Ali Zardari. Gilani's refusal to do so was based in the mid-1990s. Under Pakistan's constitution, a country all-but cannot serve in the national and provincial assemblies. Membership in the national assembly is required in order to serve as prime minister.

The Supreme Court issues decrees orders when it requires the authorities to take immediate action. Later, it also issues long judgments, in which it provides elaborated reasoning for its position on an important point of law, to the short order of June 19, the court said that "the Election Commission shall issue a notice for disqualification and the president is required to take necessary action to ensure the continuation of democratic dispensation." Gilani was ousted 22, but not the government appealed the Supreme Court's judgment in the meantime case, "The controversy has resumed finality," the court wrote.

The contempt conviction in May left the legislature and the government's executive branch with very little room to maneuver. They were obligated to act as required by the constitution: to remove the prime minister. The speaker of the national assembly requested the Chief Election Commission to notify within 30 days that Gilani could no longer hold office. Unsurprisingly, this notification, the CEC rose to inform the president that the national assembly needed to be reconstituted to elect Gilani's successor.

All of these steps were closely specified in the 1973 constitution, drafted under the watch of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founder of the Pakistan People's Party, which is now back in power, under the stewardship of Asif Ali Zardari, Bhutto's son-in-law.

The older Bhutto disregarded some of the provisions in the constitution that sought to limit his power. One of them is that was contained in that constitution. The president, the prime minister and the speaker of the national assembly chose to ignore the court's order, ignoring themselves to responding to a petition moved in the court by the main opposition party. The petition asked the court to seek compliance, and the court agreed.

Zardari and his close political associates have shown little respect for the constitution or the rule of law throughout his presidency. Under the constitution's 18th amendment, signed into law by Zardari in the fall of 2010, the president was to be guided to give up almost all executive authority to the prime minister, who, along with his cabinet, is accountable to the parliament.

Zardari, however, was not prepared to limit his own powers. Indeed, Pakistan's constitution also requires that the president, once elected, must resign from the political party that supported his or her candidacy. But Zardari retained the reins of the PPP's co-chairman that he acquired following the assassination of his wife, Benazir Bhutto, in December 2007, and even held all formal and informal party meetings in presidential properties.

With the Supreme Court's short order, the ball is back in Zardari's court, and he has no choice but to play it first time. While some political leaders seem to be behind him, Zardari has already moved to name an old PPP stalwart, Makhdoom Shahabuddin, as the new prime minister.

Thus, Pakistan has taken one more step toward developing a political system based on the rule of law. Unfortunately, it still has not managed to move more than particularly holding free and fair elections. It must also move developing a robust rule of law, granting people enforceable property rights, and providing citizens with institutional means to settle their disputes.

Pakistan will hold four and five elections in 2013 and 2013, and is preparing to hold another at the end of 2012 or in early 2013. And the Supreme Court not removed Gilani, he would have been the first prime minister to complete his full tenure. That did not happen, but this time the prime minister was removed not by military action or presidential diktat, but by the rule of law and independent institutions.

The Supreme Court's order has thrown Pakistan's politics into disarray. But it has also brought Pakistan a step closer to a functioning democratic system. And Gilani remained in office, he would have provided more ammunition to his opponents, who argue that the Zardari-led government has been leading Pakistan in the opposite direction.

Project Syndicate

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Internet radio

THERE WAS a time when the only way you could listen to radio stations abroad was in one shortwave. There were special multiband radios for this, and you had to go through the dials—one at slowly, or you'd miss the station you were looking for. Even if you did get the station, you could easily lose it, depending on factors like the quality of the shortwave radio, the strength of the broadcasting station's signal, and even the weather.

I don't know just how many people listened to shortwave. My hands is that it was popular as a form of political subversion. During the Cold War, people lobbied the Iron Curtain (East Europe countries under a communist regime) and the Bamboo Curtain (China)—would listen to BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) programs for the VOA (Voice of America). Both BBC and VOA were operated by governments, and had broadcasts in many languages, especially those used in communist countries.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The propaganda was went both ways. Radio Peking in war-still Peking then, instead of Beijing) also had its shortwave broadcasts in many languages, including Filipino, Indonesian, Malay, and Thai. Its broadcasts were operated by the Communist Party of China, and the superiority of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong thought.

Listening to Radio Peking was difficult, not just because of the unreliable shortwave broadcasts but also because it was technically illegal in the anti-communist propaganda laws. As you'd guess, listening to Radio Peking was proof you were part of the underground opposed to Marcos.

Martial law came and went and, I guess, Radio Peking as well. Today you can get Chinese TV stations through cable, with occasional propaganda films but mostly a diet of sports and entertainment, peppered with ads for all kinds of reputable goods: computers, cell phones, even traditional Chinese medicines.

Today we have hundreds of cable TV channels besides the Chinese ones. Will CNN, BBC, HBO, National Geographic and Cartoon Network, it seems that the world is now in everyone's fingertips, in living color at that. So, why need shortwave?

Mind you, shortwave radios are still listed in the market, this time with digital dials to make it easier to tune down a channel. They used to be very expensive but you'll find ones lower than $100 now made in China of course.

But the days of shortwave radios are now numbered now that there's the internet radio. Thousands of radio stations have been streaming through the Internet for several years now, so you could get the stations through a computer. The quality now depends on the speed of Internet connection, which has improved tremendously through the years.

Smartphones

But listening to Internet radio isn't with computers, even a laptop, will just very convenient. As it took the emergence of tablets (for example Apple's iPad) and smartphones (cell phones that allow you to surf on the Internet) to get more people on to, and, in my case, hooked on Internet radio.

The tablets and the smartphones are so portable—with available 3G and even 4G (the next generation) speeds, you can pretty much listen to the world wherever you are in the house, in the office, or in the beach. You can listen even while driving, but if there's no one with you it's difficult changing the stations, so make sure you have everything fixed before you start to drive.

It's interesting how radio has survived despite many predictions that TV, then computers, would displace them. Radio is a friend and companion. They stay around even if you're not listening, bringing life to empty seats, and other places that need enlivening. The other day I asked my mechanic if there was a concert set in the parking lot, and the cheerfully replied that it was just the radio. Radio is always at hope here from hearing "other sounds." Our building is one of the oldest in UP Diliman, more than 80 years old with grand high ceilings.

If you do want to listen though, radio provides more than white noise. It's informative, it's entertaining, it's even intellectually challenging. The best part about radio is that this is why the internet is such a boon because, let's face it, we don't have too many local radio stations offering substantive programs.

An important tip here: get an app (software) or listen to internet radio rather than look for all kinds of stations. I use Tune In Radio, which is a free (with ads) app for computers, tablets and smartphones. You can browse stations by genre or location, save your favorite ones so presets so you can just click on them when you want them. You can also search for stations, typing in BBC (which will give you many options) or 630AM (it's a live app, but if you get the Pro version, it saves allows you to record programs, which I find very useful for someone with short-term memory).

My favorite stations are BBC (World Service, and NBC), which is classical music) and NPR (American National Public Radio) and CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) with a wide assortment of programs, from news on the hour, to documentaries, to talk shows, to the arts, to sports, and others. Note down the times when a good program comes up so you can go back to that station the same time the next day or the next week. (Or, get to their websites to get the schedule of the programs.)

Other

NPR is actually a network of public radio stations, funded by communities and mainly entertained, with editorial slant. The main NPR station broadcasts out of Washington, D.C., but you can also look for local stations which have local shows interspersed with the national ones. (Our KUHF out of San Francisco because I lived around that city for five years, for many years, and it's always nice to listen what freeway traffic around the Bay Area is like before I head out.) ... and the members request and San Francisco's bay.

CBC is operated by the Canadian government but is in many ways similar to NPR with local community inputs. I listen to CBC Ottawa because my sister lives in that city, and it's good to be able to email her. "Hey, I heard that ..."

We also listen to BBC2, Radio 4 (news) and a Dutch station, Radio 4, that last station because Radio 4 was my company companion when I was studying in the Netherlands. It's tuned in right now, with the announcer talking equally in Dutch, which reminds me that listening to internet radio can be a good way of practicing a foreign language. Try listening to stations broadcasting in the language that sounds like Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Now you know why radio will live on with the Internet. It will be especially important for Filipinos, because we are now spread out all over the world. Overseas Filipinos do not the Internet to listen to our local stations, news talking in sometimes-incomprehensible Filipino, and music. Radio will come home after having lived overseas, to study or to work, the Internet offers nostalgia comfort, and companionship.

But the turning point has been the emergence of tablets and smartphones. Surfing for news and e-mail through a smartphone is still difficult.

Chinese fare and hope from bamboo

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE NAMES of good restaurants serving "authentic" Chinese and Taiwanese cuisine are on the menu during a lunch with representatives of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Teco), including resident representative Raphael C.S. Wang. I suppose the names of restaurants in the country that serve good Chinese fare, considering how many there are and how food Filipinos are of Chinese food in general, are bound to come up in any encounter with Teco staff. Although I'm sure that's not the only item in the conversation menu. But for now, I'll keep the restaurant checklist to seven—at least until I try out their fare for myself.

What's not secret is the desire of the Taiwanese government to encourage the exchange of visitors between our country and Taiwan, which might explain their point list of the promising of "visa-free" visits granted to Filipinos—on condition that they hold valid visas to such countries as the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and the Schengen countries (not natural, and are not or have been immigrant producers Taiwan).

For the moment, the privilege is still not being granted to Taiwanese, even if almost 200,000 of them visited the country last year, prompting the Philippine DFA to post visa in market. But, potential Taiwanese tourists, the numbers could still improve markedly considering that 1.5 million Filipinos are already scattered island but there in fact, the "free" officials point out, in addition to the 94 regular flights per week between our countries, "major Taiwanese airlines are currently studying the feasibility of new charter routes from Taipei to popular tourist spots in the Philippines."

Not to forget, perhaps, the possibility of the granting of "visa-free entry" to the country by Taiwanese, as well as Mainland Chinese. Weighing the number issues of reciprocity and possible tourism revenues against the costs of undesirables, who have already been able to penetrate our porous borders with false passports and visas, is necessary before any changes in our foreign policy are made, they say.

* * *

MEANWHILE, assures Wang, he is working doubly hard to bring to more investors from Taiwan to the Philippines, including a group of businessmen who are looking at establishing a factory of "Gaash," a well-known luxury brand of handbags, to the Philippines. This, confides Wang, owes to his counterparts in Vietnam and Indonesia are likewise wooing Chinese investors.

The Philippines is Wang's first posting in Asia, he admits, since he spent much of his diplomatic career in the United States. What keeps him busy in his Manila posting, aside from shepherding various trade delegations around, possibly investment visits, is visiting Taipei's "sister cities" in the country and looking into strengthening ties with them.

Another involvement is charity work, with Teco recently donating an ambulance to the Manila City government, and another ambulance and wheelchairs to the DSWD, to name a few. The donations in UST is noted in a quite interesting story. One day, while his driver suddenly felt dizzy while on duty. Wang had the car stop at the nearest hospital—which happened to be UST—and there had to physically support the driver while looking for the emergency room. "I had to call the doctor whom I had met previously, to help me get treatment for my driver," he recalls. Even as he was finally able to get help for the driver, Wang says he resolved to raise the funds to get help for the hospital to ensure more wheelchairs and an ambulance. Because of the experience, he says, diplomats in various countries and strengthened.

* * *

"URIAH of Hope" is how the folks behind the country's first "Bamboo Carving Competition" call the lovely bamboo, which is a grass, despite the fact that some species can grow as tall as several stories.

But the "hope" of bamboo is for more, at least in the Philippines, and Taiwanese. But former SBA administrator and LLDA general manager Edgardo "Ed" Manda, who now heads the Philippine Bamboo Foundation Inc., says we need only to look to Mainland China to see how the "hope" of bamboo could really translate to prosperous reality.

Manda says his advocacy is backed by an organized during a visit to China, particularly to the province of Zhejiang, where he and his group were oriented on the propagation of bamboo and on the many uses of this versatile and fast-growing plant. In his presentation before the "Bolong Pedagogi at Pilipinas" (enlightening Manda's heart to China they have been able to develop bamboo for uses such as construction (including floor tiles), houses and health products, animal feed, charcoal, and cancer medication, juice and shampoo, inside, of course. From the three traditional uses the bamboo found other making.

* * *

LAST year, says Manda, upon learning of the "crash slide" in the Ocean Deepsite in Benguet, they decided to visit the site to assess if bamboo could be used to arrest future landslides. As the name runs, their interest was raised when the height of the commonality of uneven in muddy hills, who were losing their livelihood due to the lack of hard wood trees in the denuded mountainsides.

This led to a brainstorm: Why not convince the small jobless miners in icy bamboo as a method of their erosion control? The governments of Baguio and Benguet, they counted the uneven on the planting and utilization of bamboo and held a competition among 42 entrants, with National Artist Bencab, noted furniture designer Benji Reyes, documentarist Rollad Sarmiento and others judging the entries.

The winning carvings, shown last February, were on display at the Bolong venue, and indeed, there is no gainsaying the creativity of the carvers as well as the versatility of bamboo.

The Philippines during World War I

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SUBSTITUTES: I wish I were born 30 years earlier, if only to have the chance to interview some of the surviving people who went through the Philippine Revolution against Spain and the Filipino-American War.

Perhaps it would have been better if my area of specialization was not the Spanish period but World War II or the martial law years, seeing that up to this day there are still many people who can tell me their stories from those periods and thus help us rethink history as we know it.

World War II is mentioned in our history books, but the boring fact filled text needs to be supplemented by eyewitness accounts of someone who could make the reality of death and the sound of gunfire in battlefields real to us. Some textbooks still ignore the stories of the comfort women or the graphic accounts of rape, murder and pillage committed by the outcast Japanese soldiers in Manila. These stories still make some stomach turn. I can only hope young historians are collecting oral histories from those major events of the past fast-away.

World War II remains current in our memory because of official commemorations in Bataan, Corregidor, Leyte and other historic sites. With the current anniversary, I am reminded of my own.

I have long wondered why the Spanish-American War did not happen of my textbooks, when the first shot in that war, on May 1, 1898, did not happen anywhere close to Washington or Madrid but right here in the Philippines where George Dewey blasted the Spanish fleet out of Manila Bay. Many people are not told that after it lost the war, Spain sold the Philippines to the United States for $20 million, which at the time translated into Uncle Sam buying all the Filipinos at roughly $0.6 each per head, with the archipelago thrown in as a bonus.

Reading the reports of the governor-general of the Philippine Islands to the US secretary of war beginning with the one for 1917, I realized that the Philippines was dragged into World War I because it was then a US colony. Ten years

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stints of Filipino loyalty included subscribing to Liberty loans, raising funds to construct a destroyer and submarine for the US Navy, and volunteering to serve in the US Army and Red Cross. When the US Congress enacted a law for the federalization of the Philippine militia, the US War Department required 15,000 volunteers. The Philippines produced 25,000.

"Most enemy residents" in the Philippines were put under surveillance, and 22 German merchant vessels in Philippine harbors were confiscated by the US shipping Board, which allowed the Philippines to keep seven small vessels for interisland trade and for transport of sugar and other goods to China and Japan. The three vessels in the country, three ships, carried coal, ordered by the government and the Manila Railroad Co., from the Balatan Mining Co. in Camiguin.

In November 1917, the German sailors together with "silent enemies guilty of propaganda in behalf of the German cause and movements against the interventions of the US," and "persons guilty of treason of employment whose presences here was thought to be a source of possible inconvenience to the community" were shipped to a US internment camp. While the war was left in the islands, the Philippine was far from its battlefields. Yet Philippine independence was on hold.

Politically, it is generally conceded that the world and the colonies discussion of the immediate independence of the islands inopportune, and there is general consensus of opinion that the Philippine question, as long the topic of almost every interest at all public gatherings, should not be raised in any form pending the termination of the war, when it is hoped that the US will present the claims of the Philippines to an independence in accordance to the congress of nations."

The following year, in the 1918 report, Francis Burton Harrison said:

"While notable still remained, the people (Filipinos) during the war caused all expression of their desire for independence, until after the signing of the armistice, when the national sentiment of the Filipinos again took front with the apparent move by the Independence of a commission of leading citizens of the Philippines to present to the US Congress their request for independence. The undersigned concurs in the belief of the Filipino people that they have now established the stable government demanded by Congress as a prerequisite for their independence, and has so reported to Congress to petition and the expression of the hope that early independence will be conceded."

The main concern related to the World War I was rising prices, which prompted a demonstration in front of the Ayuntamiento in August 1918, but an Interior Secretary Rafael Palma reported, "Much to manifestation's surprise, the most peaceful and orderly manner had no parallel in any other war-afflicted country."

How come I was never taught that the first Filipino casualty of WWI was Teniente Giraldo, who died in a battlefield in France in 1918?

The point is that we can learn about what goes in or what is left out of our textbooks in hindsight, but we must look into what history our youth are learning today.

Comments are welcome at my Facebook Fan Page.

Wanted: young chief justice

LETTERS

DEAR LAWYERS: seems to have opinions on the chief justice. Lawyers who have too much stake in the process assure that they profess eminent levels of abstract charge, for wise, above the fray viewpoint on appointees.

The audacious of appointing a senior to the as chief justice does not give him enough time to reform the justice system.

Total lawyers what is realistically wrong with our justice system: (1) the presence of corrupt and/or incompetent judges, and the difficulty of removing them; (2) the interminably long adjudication of court cases—as much as 20 to 30 years—that our Constitution says must be resolved within two years; and (3) justice delayed...and therefore denied...with the poor who cannot afford expensive lawyers and mighty litigants due to the long wait.

There is nothing unusual about appointing a young chief justice. Cayetano Arellano was 34 years old when he was appointed, and Jose Yulo was 47. The previous chief justice of the US Supreme Court, John G. Roberts Jr., was only 55 when he was appointed.

Previous experience on the bench is not important. Antonio Carpio and Renato Corona were in the presidential legal staff, so was Roberto. Earl Warren was governor of California with broad latitude of interning Japanese-Americans during the war, not a chief justice, he changed the judicial landscape of the United States—ending the "separate but equal" school segregation of the blacks, instituting the "Miranda rights" doctrine of the protects, and requiring the "one man-one vote" rule of apportioning political representation.

We need a young chief justice to serve for decades, so he can reform the justice system: (1) to encourage the public to complain about corrupt and incompetent judges who sell their judgments, to release judgments are consistently overturned by higher courts, or who delay and deny justice to the poor; (2) to consistently shorten the time for the adjudication of court cases—by categorically rewarding judges who clear their dockets every year or two; the judgment within the constitutionally prescribed two-year limit; by automatically accusing those who lie under oath in court cases of perjury; by imposing the highest penalty on the guilty; and by fashioning a clear and logical judgment to reduce unnecessary motioning issues.

We hope that with the appointment of a young crusader as chief justice, the state will be sure the lawyers and judges treating rich on the legal experience of families quarrelling over inheritance, for rich litigants who never pay their debts because they can bribe lower courts to keep the case going for years while they make 25-percent-a-month on money owed, on which eventually the Supreme Court orders claimers pay only 6 percent per annum.

I know of a case in which a rich man owed a poor man for a land which he contemplated to buy, but on which he never paid a down payment, boasting, "I can keep the case in the courts till you lose for lack of money to pay your lawyers." Most 10 "tenacious were the nullify default.

The doorway of justice must be stopped.

—JOSE M. LACSAMANA, lacsajose1114@gmail.com

Fair move to stop party-lists' patent bad faith

SEC Law or right of any party-list group has been violated by a resolution of the Commission on Elections directing the random listing of party-list groups on the official ballots for the 2013 national elections, based on scrutiny to determine the order of the listing. It is within the power of the Comelec to institute such substantive poll measures in order to ensure a more credible election. And this reform measure on the table is only fair to those party-list groups that honestly came up with a name or acronym befitting their organizations, unlike those that adopted names largely using such letters "A" or numbers "1" (although very clearly not connected with or relevant to their respective causes or organizational) just to make it first on the ballot from the list of party-list groups.

In past elections, the names or acronyms of party-list groups were arranged alphabetically on the ballot. And that is the reason almost 60 percent of the party-list groups are using names starting with "A" or number "1." From the very start of our party-list system, the Comelec knew the intentions of those groups but, regrettably, it practically tolerated or allowed them to ensue in finesse.

The lottery measure being introduced now by the Comelec is a very innovative one. Whether conceived of this brilliant idea should be commended, and Comelec Chair Sixto S. Brillantes Jr., a resourceful student lawyer, and the Comelec commissioners should be congratulated for coming up with this resolution that will put an end to the practice of using the number of votes party-list groups. If these groups or their representatives cannot be trusted on such a small matter, more so that only seniors can be entrusted with higher responsibilities in the government, like Congress.

The claim by some party-list groups that random listing will make it difficult for them to campaign or will cost more in terms of advertising campaigns is clearly unfounded. Even now, party-list groups know that when they applied for registration, they all claimed that they had chapters in each and every region or in each and every municipality that support their ideals and advocacies. Now is the time for them to prove such claim.

—ROBERTO E. ROCAMONTE, election lawyer, Las Piñas

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Rina misconstrued Teco's good intentions

RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID, in her June 13 column ("A celebration—and some questions"), announced on Taiwan's appeal to the Philippines for visa-free privileges for Taiwan nationals. We would like to clarify our position.

Since President Ma Ying-jeou was elected in 2008, one of the top priorities has been to actively take free visits for our nationals. This has resulting in the increase in tourist arrivals, while publishing his image. Our goal is solely to facilitate Taiwan nationals' foreign travel plans, increase cultural exchanges, and boost economic interactivity with other countries.

All they first documents from countries on the interests of both the issuing and receiving countries. The process involves careful deliberation and evaluation by various government agencies, i.e., justice (immigration), foreign affairs (passports), interior (the local governments' internal security), etc. Should these agencies decide that a visa-free situation is not achievable, more persuasion would be needed.

Taiwan has 129 countries that enjoy some degree of visa-free or landing visa-on-Taiwan nationals, among them, the United Kingdom.

After granting this privilege to Taiwan nationals in 2009, the UK saw a 15% percent increase in Taiwanese tourist arrivals that same year to 2013. UK imports to Taiwan went up by 26 percent, while Taiwan imports to the UK rose by 21.3 percent.

David, unnamed Malaysian, Bernard Wang, for his alleged "pressuring" of Philippine officials to give Taiwan visa-free concessions, saying: "Wang, who's had little previous experience in the foreign ministry, appears to lack the necessary diplomatic experience and cultural sensitivity." Mr. Bernard Wang, indeed, Ambassador Wang has been actively enhancing bilateral relations since he took office last January through such undertakings as expanding business opportunities, pushing hard to invite Taiwan think and investment leaders, to name a few. Quantitative estimates, nearly 8,000 sets of this have been donated for victims of natural disasters, along with two ambulances, 76 computers, and many advertisers. Also, we have been trying hard to get granted by the Philippine House of Representatives through visa-free treatment.

Regarding claims that granting visa-free privileges to Taiwan will "open the door to Taiwanese and Chinese drug and human smuggling syndicates..." as for, none of the 129 countries and areas that have granted Taiwan visa-free treatment have reported increased crime rates or a direct result of this privilege.

We are curious to ask whether it is in the Philippines' national interest not to grant Taiwan reciprocal visa privileges, or do some other interest outweigh its national interest? Though it is unfortunate that our good intentions were misconstrued, in the future, Ambassador Wang and Teco will continue to work even harder to promote comprehensive bilateral relations between Taiwan and the Philippines.

—WILLIAM TOU SHU, director, Philippine Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Teco), Taiwan, ROC

Faith and practice

I REFER to the June 24 column of Patricia Evangelista, which is actually called diary, since no topic or morality discussed, is (24/12).

Her remarks first..."This is what the Catholic Church is afraid of losing.....its own power to control the creation of a man values over reason in adherence choices, even when that choice is a mortal"—shows that her 14 years of Catholic canonic school education did not go beyond memorizing the simple catechism.

Being a Catholic, it behooves her to continue going deeper, academically, to refine her intellect. Faith, even better, our salvation rhe practice.

—RODOLFO D. LEON, manuelleon@rocketmail.com

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Pag-asa opens 1st school, looks for more pupils

By Tarra Quismundo

PUGAD (extended) classrooms are a problem in many parts of the economy, the latest addition to the public school system is looking for pupils.

Just more than three decades ruthless a schoolhouse-lodgment room on Pag-asa Island, part of the disputed Spratley territory in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), opened an elementary school (last month) in hopes of bringing education to island's children.

"If you talk of social services on the island, we have housing, we have health, but when it comes to education, we're zero. For 56 years, we had no school and residents were already clamoring for it," said Kalayaan Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon.

"Teachers always had to leave the island for the mainland (Palawan province) on weeks. They would stay with one parent or their grandparents there, and so the family members are separated. I needed to change that," he told this Inquirer by phone.

Pag-asa Elementary School, built from an old multipurpose hall using secondhand construction materials, held its first class on June 15 with five kindergarten students.

Teacher from mainland

The school hired one teacher from the mainland who agreed to move her family to the island.

Castle subsidies had started schooling on the mainland by this time the school opened, but Bito-onon is hopeful that they would return to Pag-asa before the end of the first grading period to continue studies there.

Pag-asa lies 537 kilometers (289 nautical miles) west of Palawan. A boat trip to the island could take the entire day, depending on the sea conditions.

"Maybe in two months, we can open classes from Grades 1 to 5. I'm sure residence there is going to the island to move here the first grading period," Bito-onon said.

"I know the problem [of how the children's schooling separated families]. That's why I thought it was high time for us to have a school here," he said.

The mayor said the municipal government had no problem building the school and starting operations, saying most of the resources were already on the island.

Islanders availed in the town's old multipurpose hall, dividing it into two rooms. For school supplies, the mayor said books donated earlier this year.

"It wasn't really difficult for us. And the parents were excited. They even participated in the cleanup activity. Brigada Eskwela," Bito-onon said.

The mayor is requesting funding from the provincial government and the Department of Education to maintain the school and build more classrooms in the future.

China warns PH vs school on Pag-asa

From page A1

to about 200 Filipinos, the island has been under the Philippine government's control since the 1970s. It has a town hall, a health center, an airstrip and a naval station, among other facilities.

Last week, the Kalayaan municipal government inaugurated a public kindergarten, which Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon said aimed to help the town's civilian population.

The school was inaugurated without fanfare on June 15 with five students, their parents and a teacher. A Philippine flag fluttered in the breeze in the schoolyard.

Hong expressed hope "[current countries will abide by the spirit of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China," which was earlier entered into by China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

The Philippines and three other Asean member states—Malaysia, Vietnam and Brunei—are among the Spratlys claimants, along with China and Taiwan.

Singapore graduate students have more fun in Bicol town

From page A1

ities, reached the conclusion following a weeklong visit to Albay from June 17 to 22, said the group's professor, Ivan Pittam.

The students, senior government and private firm officials from Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Botswana, Nigeria, Australia and United Kingdom, said farming, fishing, beach resorts and seaports are the likely areas for investments that could develop Libon in Albay's rural beaches belt.

Libon, with 4,000 hectares of rice fields, produces 30.4 million kilos of palay per year and is considered the "rice granary" of Albay.

Rice festival

It also hosts the P200-million Pantao Fest, a regional fair that links Manila's province and the Visayas and Mindanao to maximized travel, merchants Luzon and the National Capital Regions.

Libon, located 45 kilometers from Legazpi City, celebrates a yearly "Pantao" (rice) festival in the last week of June, showcasing the town's socio-cultural traditions, highlighted by the rice and vegetable harvest.

Pittam said the group was impressed with the way local government officials led by Governor Joey Salceda addressed the challenges confronting the town.

Nigerian Ambassador to Japan Emmanuel Ogebegha Obiorita, a member of the group, said he enjoyed their field trip to the town's rice paddies where the students experienced planting rice in knee-deep mud.

"Indeed planting rice is fun in Libon," said Obiorita chanting the country's name into dispute.

Pittam said the case study initiated by Bicolnet, who is the lone Filipino in the SMP program, and validated by the visiting students, revealed that the town needs to develop an investment plan that would implement an integrated area development featured on rice tourism, food processing industry and infrastructure.

THE CARABAO WAY Jonathan Pittam, professor of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore, and Deputy Director Hazel Hamano of the Singapore Ministry of Environment and Water Resources try their hand at planting—Zen-old fashioned way—this rice paddy in Barangay Tuna-i, Libon, Albay

First-class town

Libon is a first-class town (2011 income: P100 million) with a total population of 71,527 living in 47 villages, 22 of which are rice-producing. Natural beaches and caves cluster in the villages of Basud, Bato-tabo, Tandoc and Bonot. Nasisi has a beach resort where visitors/tourists can swim in the "Lubdeng Libon Island."

The SMP class is composed of 15 Singaporeans, four from Botswana, three Chinese, two from Hong Kong, the Nigerian ambassador to Japan, one from England and an Australian.

The visit enlisted facts and figures in the case study titled "The Municipal Government of Libon: Sustaining Municipal Prosperity."

"Their visit is to validate what they've read and seen in the case, talk with several stakeholders, visit sites and address challenges. Particularly, how development areas—education, health, water and sanitation, social welfare, and an age demographics of 0-15 years old, which comprise 31 percent of our total population," said Jimenez, the only Filipino in the class of the sixth SMP batch in July 2011, and only the fifth Filipino in the program.

Power group

Jimenez said SMP was of limited admission, ensuring that participants are senior in experience, from private, government and civil society, and varied in fields of endeavor.

"This is practically a convergence of field experts from various countries. The lecturers are all practitioners in their fields and have graduated from internationally renowned universities," she added.

The National University of Singapore was recently adjudged by an international research organization, Quacquarelli Symonds Intelligence Unit (QSIU), as No. 2 on the list of top 100 universities in Asia.

QSIU ranks the universities based on these indicators: 50 percent academic reputation from global survey, 40 percent papers per faculty and citations per paper, 10 percent faculty student ratio, 10 percent employer reputation from global survey, and 10 percent proportion of international faculty and students and proportion of inbound and outbound exchange students.

Palace: Wrong Hong Kong ship

From page A1

ties, however, about the incident, as investigators had yet to determine which vessel was involved in the accident, Lacierda said.

Herman Baltazora said the ship that hit his fishing boat, the AXL John, had markings on its stern that read "Hong Kong." Burning under those words, he said, were markings similar to markings on outgoing ships, which could be Chinese characters.

The Philippine Coast Guard on Monday said that its investigation found that only one foreign vessel passed through the area where the accident happened and it was the Hong Kong-registered, 199-meter bulk carrier MV Peach Mountain.

Not the one

Absent the picture of the Peach Mountain that appeared on the front page of yesterday's banners, Baltazora said, "This is not the one."

He said the Peach Mountain's body color, as shown in the photo, looked similar to the color of the vessel that struck his boat, but the blue of that vessel was faded.

On Monday, Baltazora told reporters that the barge vessel was light blue and red. "It was high as we could see if it was loaded," he said.

The 599 Peach Mountain also has markings on the stern that show its name in large Roman characters. Under its name, there's a marking, also in Roman characters, that reads "Hong Kong."

Unrelated to dispute

Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China, and the Chinese Embassy in Manila was displeased with news reports published on Monday that said the offending vessel was a Chinese ship.

The accident happened just as China and the Philippines were trying to find a diplomatic solution to their dispute over Scarborough Shoal in the West Philippine Sea.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said the incident was not related to the territorial dispute between China and the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

On Monday, President Aquino said the government was not blaming any country for the accident while the investigation was going on.

Yesterday, defense officials called a news conference to clear down the Coast Guard's report on Monday.

"It is possible that it was the Peach Mountain that hit them. It is also possible that it was not the Peach Mountain because of the course and the speed of the ship based on the distance where it happened," Gazmin said.

Gazmin, however, conceded navigation experts that the hit-and-run vessel was marked "Hong Kong."

Vice Adm. Alexander Pama, the Navy commander, said that based on the weather, sea course and speed of the Peach Mountain, it was unlikely that the cargo vessel was in the vicinity of the location of the AXL John when the fishing boat was hit.

90 vessels

Pama said the Coast Watch Station in Zambales province monitored "no less than 90 cargo ships" in the vicinity of the estimated location of the AXL John, about 144 kilometers (78 nautical miles) northwest of Bolinao, 24 hours before and after the accident.

"We are looking at no less than 90 (vessels) and at this point we are not discounting anybody," he said.

Pama did not say, however, how many of those vessels were registered in Hong Kong.

He said the area was a "tanimal highway" and a traditional fishing area for Filipino fishermen.

Pama said the Peach Mountain was among the ships that had been monitored to be somewhere off San Narciso, Zambales, morning, noon and after speed of 10.1 knots at about 8:45 a.m. on June 20.

It wasn't there

Based on its course and speed, the cargo vessel was estimated to be 240 km (150 nautical miles) from the area where the AXL John arrived, the authorities happened at about 7 p.m. on June 20.

"So if we are just going to compare on the basis of the speed of the ship at 9 in the morning, the earliest he is that (area where the accident happened), which is 150 nautical miles away," Pama said.

"However, this is not a definitive conclusive item, so we all know there are other factors that may increase or decrease the speed of a vessel," Pama said.

If the Peach Mountain maintained its speed of 10.1 knots, he said, "it would take her 13 hours to be in the location where the incident happened."

Another vessel

But because of the prevailing southwest monsoon, "it's also possible that the ship (vessel) faster and it's also possible it maintained its speed," Pama said.

"We are still checking. This is not a definitive or conclusive report because we are also checking other sources of data," he added.

Pama said investigators had not discounted the possibility that other unidentified vessels were involved in the accident.

"That is also not conclusive given the fact that they have been at sea for the past three days, so many boats have disappeared," Pama said.

Pama also said that even though the fishermen were flying flags indicating on the ship, "it only means that the ship was registered in Hong Kong but it does not necessarily mean that it is owned by Chinese or it's owned by the Chinese government."

They were not hit

Gazmin said Baltazora, in a sworn statement given to the Navy in Bolinao on Monday, stated that the barge vessel passed by his vessel, but did not hit it.

Quoting from the Navy report on its interview with Baltazora, Gazmin said the right fisherman's boat was at first tied to a payao, an artificial reef made of bamboo sticks, "but because of bad weather and strong waves, their fishing boat came loose and was almost submerged."

"When the ship comes, Baltazora claims that the ship passed near them but did not actually run them," Gazmin said.

"However, it also did not stop to rescue them," Gazmin said, contradicting the statements made by Baltazora and his brother in interviews with reporters that the vessel rammed and destroyed their boat.

Gazmin said Baltazora reiterated to the Navy interviewers that he saw the marking "Hong Kong," with Chinese characters written under it, on the vessel's stern.

We were hit

In Bolinao, Baltazora' brother Emelito, operator of the AXL John, insisted that the cargo vessel hit his boat.

He said the cargo vessel could not have missed detecting his boat, as the fishing boat was equipped with a metal radar reflector.

The large vessel's navigational instruments would certainly have detected the fishing boat on the water even from a great distance, Baltazora said.

The AXL John's twin engines had sunken out and the fishing boat was towed to an undisclosed spot where the cargo ship hovered nearby.

"The ship should have avoided us," Baltazora said. "Our boat was built submerged at that time and our engines cooled out," he said, explaining why he and his companions were unable to remove the boat out of the way of the oncoming ship.

He said the large ship sailed straight and hit the fishing boat, smashing it into pieces.

Fisherman Ronan Bacuno has remained firm in his account, one of whom died in a hospital in Agana City on Sunday. Four remained missing yesterday. The Coast Guard sent a helicopter in search of the four missing fishermen. With reports from Nestor J. Pierdomenico, Christine O. Avendaño and Jerome Aning

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Sino ships never left shoal, says military

From page A1

GRIMM: It's not related to territorial dispute with China. INQUIRER.NET

ade in the area to assert its sovereignty over the shoal, President Aquino ordered a Philippine Coast Guard patrol vessel and a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) survey ship home on the night of June 14, citing bad weather.

Speaking at a news conference yesterday, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and the Philippine Navy chief, Vice Adm. Alexander Pama, reported the presence of Chinese ships in Scarborough Shoal.

Pama said a Navy islander aircraft was ordered to fly over the shoal on Monday afternoon to verify if China had withdrawn its fishing boats from the shoal's lagoon.

They came and go

He said the Chinese fishing vessels and maritime ships came and went, apparently taking turns in some kind of rotation.

Pama said the statement of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) about China pulling its fishing boats out of Scarborough Shoal's lagoon may have been based on "previous reports."

A DFA statement issued on Monday quoted Del Rosario as saying, "Based on coordination between the Philippines and China, as of two days ago, we have received information that out of Chinese fishing boats have left the lagoon of Bajo de Masinloc."

The Philippines refers to Scarborough Shoal as Bajo de Masinloc and Panatag Shoal. China calls the area Huangyan Island.

When asked about the DFA statement, Gazmin replied: "We don't want to react to that but what we are going now is the factual operational report."

DFA recommendations

The DFA yesterday said that it had forwarded recommendations to Malacañang, but deputized spokesperson Raul Hernandez would not disclose what the recommendations were.

"Let's just wait for the decision of higher authorities," Hernandez said in a phone interview.

"Two days ago, the Navy confirmed that the same fishing boats had pulled out of the shoal's lagoon," he said. "The Chinese fishing boats have obviously returned."

Citing a Navy report, Hernandez said that as of Monday afternoon, there were five Chinese government vessels outside the shoal's lagoon and six fishing boats and 17 dinghies inside the lagoon.

The lagoons were too failed to reach Ilsang Rim, the spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy, he continued.

Who's in charge?

After hearing that Chinese fishing boats were still in the shoal, Maniwalaan Bay Republic Inland said the government should be weary of negotiating with a Chinese government that appeared to be "speaking in two voices."

"This is really running the Chinese government, their political leaders or their military, the People's Liberation Army," said Bianca, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

"The government should really be careful in the way they are talking with to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding, which can complicate the situation," Bianca said.

"I don't think Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario would have made a move when he claimed the Chinese also committed to withdraw their ships," Bianca said. "Maybe the other side viewed the withdrawal as the ships to maximal there."

Bianca's flag Jose Miguel Arroyo said the government should be aware of the power play in the Chinese government.

Apparently Angara said, hawks and doves are in conflict in the Chinese leader to dealing with the territorial dispute with the Philippines.

Weakened claim

Gazmin acknowledged that the absence of Philippine vessels in the shoal would weaken the country's claim of sovereignty to that part of the West Philippine Sea.

"You sure there's an impact," Gazmin said. "But the fact that our patrols are continuous—there may not be ships but we have planes and we are like situations and we get data—I think somehow that also helps."

The pullout of the Coast Guard and BFAR vessels on June 15 ended a standoff with China after two months and a week, with China in control of the shoal, which both countries claim.

Gazmin said he had recommended that government vessels be sent back to Scarborough Shoal.

The order will come from the Department of Transportation and Communications, which has supervision over the Coast Guard.

The department has not given the order, Gazmin said.

"But as he has," he said, "the weather is not good, the waves are huge, [and] our ships may not withstand them."

Fishing ban

Both China and the Philippines have declared fishing bans at Scarborough Shoal for resource conservation.

Filipino fishermen have stayed away from the shoal since the government declared the ban in mid-May. There were reports that Filipino fishermen who tried to go to the shoal were driven away by Chinese maritime vessels.

Chinese fishermen, however, continue to operate at the shoal under the protective watch of the Chinese government.

"Apparently, Beijing's [fishing] what they're doing in the area," Pama said. With reports from Jerry E. Esplanada and AP, GMA Cebu reports

Go easy on the blame game, solon tells officials

By Christine V. Esguerra

SEN. EDGARDO Angara yesterday cautioned against prematurely blaming China for the maritime incident in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) that left 15 fishermen Baltazar Brad and four others missing.

Whether a Chinese vessel was responsible, Sen. Grigorio Honasan said the incident showed that the dispute over the Scarborough Shoal was a "global issue" and, as such, the United States and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) should be on board to negotiations.

Hong Kong vessel

"We should first verify if China was indeed responsible for this incident to avoid inflaming territorial tensions which could dampen our efforts to resolve the issue diplomatically," Angara, vice chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said in a statement.

On Monday, the Philippine Coast Guard said a Hong Kong-registered commercial vessel may be the one that struck a Philippine fishing boat off Bolinao, Pangasinan province, on June 20.

"Whatever is answerable for the death of the Filipino fisherman must be held liable," Angara said. "We cannot allow anyone, even China, to bully us in our own seas, [or], he said.

"Nandoon [sa loob ng] sea, we must not give up on the possibility of resolving this territorial dis-pute—and others we are involved in—in a peaceful manner, without jeopardizing our country's best interests."

Position of strength

Honasan said the Philippines should "negotiate from a position of strength" over the Scarborough dispute by tapping its economic and security allies such as south-

ANGARA: We should verify first.

east Asian countries and the United States.

He said the Philippines could not go against China "one on one."

"If we relegate control over this area to the Chinese—I'm not exaggerating—what if they put up a toll gate on the area? Then we would all be forced to pay up and I don't think American would allow that," he said the business by phone.

Honasan said the Philippines should be open to a joint exploration of the disputed area together with other claimant countries.

What does China want?

"What is Scarborough Shoal?" he asked. "I understand that it is pile of about four or five rock formations. The question is: Why is China so interested in that? Do they know something that we do not?"

He went on: "Obviously there's oil, there is natural gas. But what else is there that they need and which we could also use?"

Honasan added: "I think it's not only a question of territorial integrity or sovereignty. There is something there that is economically important even for a big country like China. And if this is important to them, it is even more important to us because we want to spur our economy."

Cameras keep eye on SLEx

TO CLAMP down on traffic flow and ensure quick response during emergencies, the operator of South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) said all-weather rotating cameras are now positioned at predetermined points to completely monitor regular events along the four-route during rainy season.

South Luzon Tollways Corp. (SLTC) president Ishaik Rahman, in a press statement, said PTC (TOC) that motorist the SLEx can switches from the Alabang viaduct to Calamba City and extends to Sto. Tomas, Batangas. SLTC is the concessionholder of SLEx.

"The cameras are an integral part of our traffic monitoring system and these complement our regular patrols of the SLEx," Rahman said.

Acquired in 2010, the PTZ cameras are located one kilometer apart along the whole stretch of SLEx. They can rotate 360 degrees and have an effective range of 2 kilometers

HENRY SY SCHOOL BUILDING

SM chair and founder Henry Sy Sr. (5th from right, seated) and his wife, Felicidad preside over the formal opening and blessing of the Henry Sy Sr. Primary School Building which the Sy family donated to the Xavier School campus in Hacienda Columbia City, Laguna. Others who graced the occasion are (from right) Herbert Sy, Hartley Sy, Debbie Sy, Herbert Sy, Education Secretary Bro. Armin Luistro FSC, Fung, cultural counselor of the Chinese Embassy; Johnip Cua, Xavier School Board of Trustees member; Fr. Johnny Go, Xavier School president; Fr. Ismael Dalugdug, Xavier School chair of the board joined by unifr. Jose Cecilio Magadia, province superior, Society of Jesus. Xavier School Nasugbu administered by Xavier School (Xsn Lian) and offers the same Xavier education with a new Chinese studies program. The new campus in new again to both boys and girls and will maintain a scholarship level of 25 percent of the student population. All the sons of Henry Sy Sr.—Henry Jr., Hans, Herbert and Harley—were educated in Xavier School and De La Salle University where they also donated a multipurpose building called Henry Sy Sr. Centennial Hall.

Prosecutor guilty of bribery

By Lolit B. Saberon

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has convicted a Batangas prosecutor and his aide in two cases for graft over a P5,000 bribe demand from a police official.

Convicted of direct bribery were prosecutor Alfredo Barcelona Jr. and his personal assistant Violeta Nonio. They were also fined P3,000 each, according to the Office of the Ombudsman, which had prosecuted the case.

Barcelona was also temporary disqualified from holding public office.

The antigraft court ruled that Barcelona and Nonio conspired to demand money from Godfrey Bipolos, the chief of police of Gen. Santos City, in exchange for dropping the latter as a respondent in a criminal case pending before the prosecutor's office.

Nonio was nabbed in an entrapment operation headed by the National Bureau of Investigation in 2004 as he was receiving the money from Bipolos. Following his arrest, Nonio had pointed to Barcelona as the one who ordered him to receive the money.

Barcelona, in his defense, said he had only directed Nonio to get the records of the case from Bipolos.

Lawyer to question JBC members in SC

By Marlet Ratinel

SEE YOU in court, Oca.

Former Solicitor General Frederico Chavez yesterday accepted the challenge of Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, who dared him to bring to the Supreme Court his concern questioning the composition of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC).

"I did not expect that kind of response from Escudero. But since he has dared me to elevate the issue to the Supreme Court, I assure him—as sure as I am that the sun will rise tomorrow—that I will certainly file a petition," Chavez told the Inquirer over the phone.

While several individuals had expressed misgivings about having both a senator and a congressman in the JBC at the same time, he said this could be the first time that the issue would be brought to the high tribunal.

"This has to be corrected. Now is the right time and I accept the challenge that I like the same as the Supreme Court," Chavez said.

He warned the JBC last week that allowing both Escudero and Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. to sit as ex-officio members of the council as representatives of the two chambers of the Congress was a violation of the 1987 Constitution. Tupas was much criticized as the finishing head of the House team that prosecuted Chief Justice Renato Corona who was ousted last month.

The Constitution states: "A judicial and Bar Council is hereby created under the supervision of the Supreme Court composed of the Chief Justice as ex-officio chairman, the Secretary of Justice, and a representative of the Congress as ex-officio members, a representative of the integrated bar, a professor of law, a retired member of the Supreme Court and a representative of the private sector.

The JBC was notorious for judges and justices.

But the lawyer said he wouldn't have to wait for the formal response of the JBC to the letter he sent to the eight-member body on June 22 before submitting any pleading to the high court.

Anomalous deviation

Calling it an "unconstitutional deviation" and "anomalous," Chavez said the JBC should "clean up their mess" by respecting Section 8, Article VIII of the Constitution.

"The members of Congress who sit in the JBC violate, presumed on the basis of presumptions and assumptions of regularity. They must proceed upon the duties of strong constitutional basis (which) they have none," Chavez said.

"When the language of the Constitution is clear, it does not require any kind of interpretation. Even the phrase 'a representative of Congress' means one, single or solo. It does not mean two, double or twice," he added.

He argued that interpretation of the constitutional provisions should only be made to clarify certain ambiguous words or provisions.

"When the language is plainer (in simple), Dad's the way it should be read and it's as simple as that," he said.

Citing court records, Chavez said the JBC only started to allow both a senator and a congressman to join the body in 2001 during the time of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Not keen on change

Before that, he said, the Senate and the House took turns in designating a representative of Congress to the JBC.

"We will leave the history of the JBC composition from the time of its creation (in 1987) up to the present time. I think it was only during the time of Davide, who was basically a politician, when this kind of anomalous composition started," Chavez said.

On Monday, Escudero said the JBC was not keen on changing its membership composition pointed by Chavez—without any order from the Supreme Court.

"The position of the JBC is that unless enjoined by the court in a contrary opinion, the JBC will continue to operate the way it had been observing before," the senator warned.

"Maybe, it would be better if this would be brought to the court so it could be settled once and for all," he added.

Santiago, Drilon also nominated for CJ post

By Michel Ratinel

THE SEARCH for the 24th Chief Justice of the Philippines just got more interesting.

Two senators who figured prominently, albeit on opposing sides, in the recent impeachment trial of ousted Chief Justice Renato Corona have been recommended to replace him.

Senators Miriam Santiago and Franklin Drilon joined the still growing list of individuals who had been nominated to the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC), the body tasked to vet constitutional bets for vacancies established for the judicial posts.

The sharp-tongued Santiago was one of only three senators—besides Senators Joker Arroyo and Ferdinand Marcos Jr.—who voted to save Corona from being thrown to history as the country's first Chief Justice to be sacked through an impeachment process. The three voted not guilty.

Drilon, on the other hand, was among the 20 senators who voted to convict Corona, who admitted that he did not declare some P180 million in dollar and peso deposits in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

Santiago and Drilon were classmates at the University of the Philippines' College of Law where they graduated in 1969.

Another classmate, Bartaz Brig. Reinaldo Bautista, who topped the 1969 bar exams, has also been nominated to the vacant Chief Justice post.

Santiago, who is set to join the International Criminal Court this year, was recently mauled by lawyer Victor del Rosario while Drilon was nominated by lawyer Renato Fajo.

Santiago was also nominated to succeed then outgoing Chief Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura in December 2006.

Drilon's credentials that her limited previous administrative scholarship and, most of all, her unassailable character will inspire the trust, confidence and respect of the bar, the bench and the general public," Del Rosario said in nominating Santiago.

Among the other nominees were business columnist and constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, Cardigan Rep. Eudo Rodriguez, retired Court of Appeals Justice Jose Portia Mina Flor Sandoval and lawyer Vincent Villena—all nominated by Sin.

Also nominated were former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo and two professor Ed Vincent Rhone.

July 2 deadline

With barely a week before the July 2 deadline for the nomination, the JBC had received 48 recommendations and applications for the Chief Justice position.

The list of the 24 nominees had signified their intention to join the JBC selection process, which would be open to live media coverage.

Those who had accepted their nominations were Associate Justices Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura, Arturo D. Brion and Roberto A. Abad, human rights lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno, law professor Soledad Cuyegkeng de Guzman, prominent women's rights lawyer Katrina Legarda, Rafael Morales, Solicitor-estimated and former IBP law dean Raul Pangalangan and Theodore Aliwang.

Acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio, Solicitor General Francis Jardeleza, Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima—all poised to be formally eligible contenders for the Chief Justice post—have yet to accept their nominations.

3M child laborers in PH, says ILO poll

From page A1

Ten Filipino working children registered in a 2001 survey conducted by the ILO and the UP Department of Labor.

Of these 3.59 million children, or work, 3.028 million were considered as child labor. Of and 2.993 million were reported to be exposed to hazardous child labor.

"We're surprised by this ... We at the (labor department) came up our pledge to do our utmost in making every barangay in the country with high child labor incidence child labor-free," Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said at the launching in Pasig City of a new campaign to stamp out child labor in the country.

"In carrying out this resolve, we will take it one barangay at a time. We will move the challenge head-on," she added.

The labor department had identified 609 of the country's poorest municipalities and was targeting 80 barangays that had the highest incidence of child labor.

She also pointed out that the survey discussed that 69.5 percent of child laborers, or 2.306 million, were attending school.

Under the law, child labor is defined as any work or economic activity performed by a child or activity that may hinder or be to his or her health and safety, or physical, mental, or psychosocial development.

Poverty, lack of jobs

Hazardous child labor refers to employment in industries and occupations designated as hazardous under the country's occupational safety and health standards.

"We have to get to the root of child labor which is hooked with poverty and lack of decent and productive work," said ILO country director Lawrence Jeff Johnson.

"While we strive to keep children in school and away from child labor, we need to ensure decent and productive work for parents and basic social protection for families," Johnson added.

Earnestito Librin, NSO administrator, said the process of child laborers in the country went to the national survey.

"There are two boys for every girl, especially in agriculture. So the services sector, there are more girls than boys. Sixty percent are in agriculture, while in our Labor Force Survey which shows that only 36 percent (of the country's labor force) is in agriculture," Librin said.

"In they grow older, they also tend to drop out of school. With the younger age group, aged 5 to 9 years old, 90 percent are in school. By the time they reach 15, only half of them are in school," she said.

"They are working mostly in the farms but some of them work as construction sites, domestic (persons) are actually in the mines, quarries, or factory area," she added.

Worst forms of labor

The region which had the highest incidence of child labor were Central Luzon, Bicol, Western Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Central Visayas, the survey showed.

Librin said the 2.993 million child laborers exposed to hazardous conditions could include those involved in the worst forms of child labor—the sex trade, drug trafficking, other illicit activities and armed conflict.

"They could be included but there's no such labor data as such. This is because when you ask them where they work, they could say they're waitresses when they're actually prostituted children," Librin said.

"These (2.993 million) are the ones exposed to chemicals. Indirectly hazards like bacteria that cause diseases or physical hazards," she added.

The Philippines has pledged to reduce by 75 percent all worst forms of child labor by 2015, which includes the sex trade, the latest millennium development goal of achieving universal education.

Librin also said that the 2004 and 2011 surveys could not be compared because a different methodology was used in the 2001 survey which involved "more general questions."

Librin said the survey was conducted in October 2011 involving 10,000 families across the country.

6 points laid out in P-Noy's mining agenda

From page A1

comfortable" with "some language" in it.

In a statement, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP) said it appreciated the review of the draft EO and the "apparent care" by which the government was approaching the mining policy issue.

"The mining companies are eagerly waiting for the issuance of the executive order to enable them to pursue their mining activities that are expected to bring in much capital investments to bring the country economic development, particularly in remote poverty-stricken areas of the country," the chamber said.

Goes to rim EO

According to a draft of the EO obtained by reporters, the government envisions "responsible" mining development while ensuring that the country's ecological richness "is properly valued and protected" because of its "potential of improving the economy and uplifting the lives of Filipinos."

The Philippines is among the world's top producers of nickel and copper and has 31 metallic mineral operations.

Under the proposed policy, the government plans to adopt internationally best practices to promote good governance and integrity in the sector.

But Agenda 4 of the draft document states that national laws would prevail over local laws related to small-scale mining, a move that local government executives would want to regulate. This declaration has been challenged by local government executives.

On Friday, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda vowed in a forum that 40 provinces had already passed anti-mining ordinances and said that governors would ask the court to order down the EO once it was signed.

'Spitballing'

On Monday, however, the Aquino-dominated Senate's statements as "premature."

"I hope people weren't making any comment until the EO is out," his spokesperson Valerie Lacierda, said yesterday. "It is because we're spitballing here until we see the provisions of the EO ... It's just all talk... It's all speculations."

"Let's wait. Let's put on hold our opinions on this and hold our fears," Lacierda told reporters even as he acknowledged that he had not seen the approved version of the EO.

"For all intents and purposes, (these contents) might have been finalized," he added.

According to the draft EO, the government aims to have more regulation over small-scale mining and the establishment of buy and trade minerals.

'Go, no-go areas'

The draft classifies the definition of small-scale mining, its scope, and those who can apply for contracts, as well as introduces "mutually-exclusive" mining "go and no-go areas."

Mutually-exclusive areas are those agricultural lands, island ecosystems, and environmentally.

Geohazard maps and forecasts of climate change events are to be used to determine "go and no-go" areas for mining, according to the document.

The mining sector has been calling for the lifting of the government moratorium on the approval of mining permits. Since 2010, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has not signed any new mining permit pending review of the applications.

More taxes

The government plans to impose a "windfall profit" tax on mining companies for this provision to become a reality, the draft policy prescribed Congress legislation to impose the rate and other additional levies.

Other possible sources of revenues for the government were the creation of mining investments, imposition of higher administrative fees, and the promotion of joint ventures and foreign technical assistance contracts with mining companies, which allows the government to receive a bigger share of the profits.

In its statement, the CMP said it was supporting new legislation "adopting a progressive tax system that will allow government to further increase its share in mining profits."

While firms in most mining jurisdictions, such as Australia and Chile, are taxed on the basis of net profits, Philippine companies pay taxes based on gross earnings, it noted.

"The country's mineral policy holds so much potential to help in the country's economic and social development, especially with the current robust metals' prices worldwide," the chamber said.

"Investors are ready to put their dollar in the country and the government only needs to maximize regulatory certainty and ensure the proper implementation of current laws and fiscal regime."

Under the proposed policy, the government and the private sector would be required to set social and environmental protection measures are in place in a mining area before, during and after the mining operations.

Insurance coverage

On Agenda 1, the government raises the possibility of insurance coverage for the communities and the surrounding environment—as well as proper and liability for the maintenance of closed mines. It was not clear, however, if this will then be the responsibility of the mining firms.

Abandoned mines and mill tings are to be covered by the government "tailings from old mines still contain plenty of minerals like nickel, iron and gold, according to the DENR.

Although the minerals will be considered state assets, the draft policy made it clear that cleaning up of the area would be the mining contractor's responsibility.

The proposal called for a massive study of the fiscal schemes, processes and procedures for the extraction of minerals, including those "being utilized for oil and gas and other energy related extractive industries."

At least two agencies are to be created to promote and regulate mining under the draft EO. These are the Mineral Industry Development Council, to replace the defunct Minerals Industry Development Council, and a task force against illegal mining.

Villaluerte

In a press statement, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund "Villaluerte" Jr., vice president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, said the majority of governors were in favor of responsible mining and not necessarily opposed to the proposed policy.

"Some just have concerns on the draft executive order, specifically on the following issues—proper consultation with the local government units, ensuring the environmental balance of mining operations, the royalty sharing powers of local government units over mining operations, and fair and equitable sharing of revenues from such operations," Villaluerte said.

"Mining operations should be conducted in such manner that would ensure that the environment would be protected, that the local government units would have a say in regulating them, and that the local government units should get a fair share of the revenues that are generated by the government on such operations and the population would derive substantial benefits," NOE's report from Christine G. Avendaño

Laguna cops donate one drum of coins to Red Cross

From page A1

paid week in the towns of San Pedro, Cabuyao and Sta. Cruz and the cities of Biñan, Sta. Rosa and Calamba, said Supt. Gilbert Cruz, Laguna chief.

The coins were placed in a drum and later turned over to the Red Cross chapter in Laguna, he added.

Cruz said the gaming machines, which were destroyed during raids at the provincial police headquarters in Sta. Rosa, featured "fruit games" and "video karera" that offered prizes for a minimal bet of P1.

A fruit game machine is similar to those found in casinos in which a bettor wins if the machine shows a single line of the same type of fruit; video karera simulated horse racing.

"We made sure we didn't just destroy the machines but the individual components themselves because if you didn't, the motherboards could be recycled into new machines," Cruz said.

The arrests were made Dec. 2 but it was difficult to catch gambling operators in action because they leave the premises in droves during raids, Cruz said.

"So the best thing to do is to find the machines and get rid of them," he said.

Cruz said the destruction of the illegal gambling machines was a campaign of Chief Supt. Jonnel Estomo, police director for Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon). It was from implementation of Laguna.

He said the machines were usually found in some of the poorest areas of the province where illegal drug are also also rampant.

The force of illegal gambling generates P5,000 to P5,500 in take per day from a single machine, he added.

After 21 years... the city in the forest is now the country's global eco-tourism city

21st Pista Y Ang Cagueban

It's more fun in Puerto Princesa

(Feast of the Forest)

FUELLED BY Pres. Noynoy Aquino's National Greening Program, this year's Pista Y Ang Cagueban celebration in Puerto Princesa City aims to contribute in no small way to the president's vision in planting 1.8 billion trees covering 1.6 million hectares by 2016.

More than two decades ago, Puerto Princesa's natural resources were threatened by man's wanton lust for personal gain, deforestation, poisoned water system and extinction, and it took one man with unwavering drive for environmental protection to lead the way to regain its lost glory, Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn.

It took 21 years for this man to rally the people of Puerto Princesa into actively participating and committing themselves to the noble cause of preserving, protecting and restoring what was left of the city's natural resources.

When Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn took over the helm of the city as the first non-Puerto Princesa born mayor, he was also the first to take the lead in protecting and conserving the environment and rehabilitating the ravaged natural resources of the city and transformed it into a global eco-tourism city.

Under the leadership of Mayor Hagedorn and the unyielding support of First Lady Ellen M. Hagedorn, Puerto Princesa has been at the forefront of keeping its environment and ecological protection and sustainable development issues on hand.

Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn and First Lady Ellen M. Hagedorn

Through innovative and pioneering initiatives on caring and nurturing the environment and striking a balance in the utilization and propagation of its land, water and coastal resources through inclusive, sustainable development policy, Puerto Princesa had earned its place in the global map.

PPUR "Global Jewel" of N7WN

This year's Pista Y Ang Cagueban marks the 21st year that Puerto Princesa City holds this unique fiesta celebration with unusual pomp and pageantry where more than 2 million trees have been successfully replanted, rehabilitating over 200 hectares of stripped forest cover of Barangays Iwahig and Sta. Lourdes.

The first Pista Y Ang Cagueban was celebrated on June 19th, it was on the same year that the United Nations declared June as environment month.

What started as a customary event during the first two years of Pista Y Ang Cagueban, turned out to be a more colourful, exciting and widely participated fiesta celebration under the stewardship of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn.

The past two decades or currently, the environment has become a way of life for the people of Puerto Princesa. It has been institutionalized in every barangay and has since adopted linkages with various sectors – from the grassroots to the tourism groups, to one local government unit to another, to student leaders to issue-oriented groups, to even local and foreign tourists.

More than the pomp and pony of a fiesta celebration, Pista Y Ang Cagueban had successfully translated the mayor's vision as an active commitment and had ushered in a new consciousness bearing promising and conserving future among the people.

This year's Pista Y Ang Cagueban celebration comes at the heels of recent recognition heaped upon Puerto Princesa City because of the news that the Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR) has been crowned as the "global jewel" of the new seven wonders of nature, a recognition more valuable than its weight in gold.

Puerto Princesa Underground River is the longest navigable river in the world. Boating through 4.3 kilometers of navigable subway, strolling through a cathedral-like cave of limestone formation, stalactites and stalagmites.

A natural World heritage site and Puerto Princesa City's premier eco-tourism destination, it was also recorded in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list by its outstanding value and ecological significance.

PPUR's N7WN victory has opened up the floodgates of tourism income in the country.

Puerto Princesa always 1st!

1st

- [illegible] GLOBAL 500 ROLL OF HONOR AWARD
- [illegible] ASIA ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- [illegible] AS THE CLEANEST AND GREENEST COMPONENT CITY
- [illegible] AWARD (CLEANEST AND GREENEST COMPONENT CITY)
- [illegible] FLAGSHIP AWARD OF ASIA
- [illegible] AND CONTROL OVER A NATIONAL PARK
- [illegible] OF CALAMITY
- [illegible] COMPREHENSIVE REFORESTATION PROGRAM
- [illegible] CHARGE TEST LABORATORY
- [illegible] CARBON-NEUTRAL CITY
- [illegible] 7 WONDERS OF NATURE AWARD

Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn – "Just as I do not violate my own home, so must I not violate my environment. Political, I can only presume, power, and because it is life because I have embraced it as my own."

Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dellosa

SPORTS

'Monumental' game for TNT

Chot sees B-Meg tiff as a gauge

By Mycaeng R. Castillo

TALK 'N TEXT coach Chot Reyes describes this match as "monumental."

The Tropang Texters, after a lackadaisical start, have become the hottest team in the PBA Governors' Cup and will be gunning for a semifinal nod today when they clash against 8-0 Air 21 and Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Reyes could have walked about the 7:30 p.m. match as a good bye-office dawn since that will be the two teams' first meeting after the Philippine Cup title series, which Talk 'N Text lost in seven games, two months ago.

But it is not that.

Reyes wants to see in this game if his Texters have gotten better the way he wants it to be, and if his powerhouse squad—finished by unbeaten Air 21—has relied it when it needs a little means for the ranks strength reinforcement.

"I will be a monumental battle against B-Meg," Reyes said Sunday night after Talk 'N Text stoned up a third consecutive victory with a 113-111 clinging of crowd-darling Jimmy Gee Gholston. "All we have to do is get better, and we are in for a tough week."

A win would send the Texters to the next round in the company of the Llamados and the fifth league-leader Rain or Shine Elasto Painters.

Alaska and Air21 clash in a game between also-rans in the 5:15 p.m. game.

With two spots already safely in, there are six more still in the running for the last four berths—Talk 'N Text, Meralco, Ginebra, Powerade and Thunder Bolt.

Except for Talk 'N Text, which is at 4-3, and Thunder Bolt (3-4), all have 4-4 records going into the final week of the elimination.

B-MEG greater Jimmy Yap is expected to challenge Talk 'N Text's defense again in today's grudge match. ANDY TORRALVO

Steady Bata, 6 other PH pool bets gain last 64

POOL masters Elvira "Nene" Reyes dumped Kuwaiti's Bader Al-Awadi, 9-2, Monday and led six other Filipino into the round of 64 of the 2012 World 9-Ball Championship at the Al Ittefaq Sports Club in Doha, Qatar.

Reyes, still steady and deadly at 57, advanced to the tough knockout stage along with compatriots Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Renante Alcoran, Joe Jose Cortawa, Carlo Biado, Roberto Gomez and Antonio Gabica.

Bustamante, already ensconced into the 64, fired Hadi of Team like Reyes, booted Bawadi's Abdullah Al Yousef, 9-4, while two-time world champion and last year's runner-up Alcoran took down Kuwaiti Fahad Lamlouh, 9-6.

World No. 8 Gomez mounted comeback Bhaskar Ganesh, 9-5, while the No. 12 Biado routed Czechoslovakia's Roman Hybler, 9-3.

Gomez entered in a 0-4 victory over Qatar's Mohammad Yousef even as Gabica squashed pace Emmanuel Denis Bender, 9-7.

Apart from Canada, four other Filipinos, including reigning champion Lee Van Corteza, Dennis Orcollo, dropped to the loser's bracket.

Grouping for form, Orcollo yielded to Hong Kong's Andrew Kong, 9-5, in Day 2 of the $300,000 tournament that drew 128 of the world's finest players.

Also in a count, win situation are Antolel Marcos, who bowed to Taiwan's Vincent Hsiung, 5-9, Rubilen Amit, who lost to Canada's John Wirth, 9-8, and Rusell Gallego, who yielded to Malaysia's Tony Drago, 5-6.

Others who advanced included 2003 World Champion Thorsten Hohmann, 2007 champion Chang Jun Jin, Germany's Ralf Souquet, the Netherlands' Nick Van den Berg, England's Karl Boyes and Taiwan's Fu Che-wei.

They were joined by Bustamante, Alcoran, Reyes, the former snooker 8-ball world titlist, who thrashed China's Fu Jianbo, 9-3, and Ibrahim Al-Sweesi, who beat reigning titlist Yukio Akagariyama of Japan, 9-7. Ray Lorena

BOMBED Heat issues

Romero 'very serious' about joining PBA

By Mycaeng R. Castillo

SHORTSTOP-BUSINESSMAN Mike Romero has formalized his intent to enter cross-over the Philippine Basketball Association next year by becoming its 12th member.

"I want the 'Batang Pier' (his team's moniker) to be in the PBA by August," Romero told the listeners over the phone's conference a few hours after his meeting with league commissioner Chito Salud. "It's very serious and I am pursuing it this time."

Romero inquired about a new franchise, which will involve no less than P80 million, or an old one which he will look at should one of the 10 teams decide to disband at the end of the season.

"If there's one team that comes to Mr. Salud and says that it wants to sell, that's all I take a look at it," told Romero, who, if his application is approved by the board, will come his team in the Global Port bay Batang Pier.

"He is not just a casual buyer," Salud said of Romero. "He told me, in no uncertain terms, that he will join next year because he said that this is the right time to join."

During the meeting with Salud, Romero—is so asked about the exact mechanics to apply for a franchise and the convenience involved should a new franchise is made available.

Romero made it no secret that he would be haggling to directly hire five amateur players directly into his team, two of them being the hotshot-V-ler Fajardo and favorite Filipino-American Chris Rodger.

Romero will formally settle Salud and the board within the next few days to obtain the rest of his answers and his entitlement for the consummate of the new franchise.

Surprise us, P-Noy urges Olympians

By Jose Mariano

PRESIDENT Aquino reminded the small Philippine contingent to the London Olympics of the Filipinos' ability to surprise the sporting world as he exhorted them to end the country's gold-medal drought in the quadrennial meet.

"I know the world may not be expecting us to take home multiple gold medals. But I believe in the capacity of the Filipinos to surprise," said the President in a speech read by Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras during Monday night's send-off party at Blue Leaf on McKinley Hill in Taguig.

"I believe in the capacity of the PH. Ipino to be excellent in anything they do —to be world-class."

Chef de mission Manny Lopez said they're expecting (aside) from the 11 Filipino Olympians to deliver a medal in London, something that hasn't happened for a long time.

"We're not going there for a vacation," said Lopez. "We're going there to win a medal."

It has been 15 years since the Philippines last won a medal—a silver courtesy of Sonny Abamonte's "Dyesebel" Rifiero in the 1996 Atlanta Games. The country has never won an Olympic gold medal.

President Aquino hugged off from the send-off party due to a previous commitment in Baguio City.

"We have seen our countrymen surprise the world with their efforts many times," he said. "We have seen it in our sporting heroes, from Onyok Velasco to Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippine Azkals to the Philippine Volcanoes."

"But 's—ined every single one of your countrymen—selfless courage on our streets, even heading on your city streets the world race again, and with glory for yourself and for the Philippines on the world stage," added Mr. Aquino.

The Olympians present were shooter

LONDON-BOUND Some of the country's 11 Olympians (from rear, from left)—Abbiah, Lacuna, Diaz, Barriga, Torres, Flores and Rosario—with (back row, same order) Pomoncillo, Pangilinan, Cojuangco, Garcia, Lopez, Proctor & Gamble Philippines' Sueann Yuhcasan and Almendras during Monday night's send-off ceremony. JOAN BONDOC

Rosza Rosario, boxer Mark Anthony Barriga, long jumper Marestella Torres, weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz and swimmer Jasmine Alkhaldi and Jessie Khing Lacuna.

Filipino-Japanese judoka Tomohiko Hoshino and Filipino-American BMX rider Daniza Caluza are training abroad.

Reports have it that archers Mark Javier and Rachel Cabral have also made it to London but Lopez said there was no official confirmation yet from World Archery Federation.

Javier and Cabral are still in the United States following their successful qualifying effort in the recent World Archery Championships in Ogden, Utah.

After personal during the pool) were POC president Jose Cojuangco Jr., Philippine Sports Commission chair Heidi Mendoza, International Olympic Committee representative Frank Fikhelle, executive chairperson for Management, POC chief Monic Puentevella, and POC communications lolly Gomez.

Big-name sports personalities Manny V. Pangilinan, Mikee Romero, Ricky Vargas, among others, were also there.

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ICTSI S'woods tees off; low scores tipped

By Mycaeng R. Castillo

SHIELD Qua, the former Philippine Open champion who became the Montejo' haven of the Manila Southwoods better than anyone else, believes that the P2.5 million tournament opening off today will be one for the scoring office.

"It's going to be at least double-digit underpar with many breaking par each day," Qua said as he joins the likes of Juvic Pagunsan, Frankie Minoza and Miguel Tabuena in the hunt for the P450,000 top prize.

Qua, who was the spearhead of the Southwoods victory in an amateur tilt in its opening season, said he has a slight advantage because of his familiarity with the course but believes that anybody "can play well and score three."

"You have to play near A-Game there, otherwise, you will have a hard time," said Qua.

TABUENA

QUA

After finishing second to Thomas Waterhouse in the Asian Tour's Queen's Cup in Thailand two weeks ago, Pagunsan will be looking for more joy this event.

Tabuena, meanwhile, has momentum on his side, and the 17-year-old rookie, after coming from behind to win in Batangas last month, will be shooting for his third title of the season against another full field.

Jhobert Lacuesta, the current Order of Merit leader, is also hoping to score well, having been a member of Southwoods's stock of his pro career.

Southwoods' primary defense are the winds and, in hard grasses, giving the field no option but to find approaches short of the flagsticks.

PH Seniors Am gets going at Aguinaldo

FIFTH TIMERER roughs and forest gamers, the relentlessly closer but tight Camp Aguinaldo layout looms as a good test for a star-studded field vying off today in the NGAP-Globe Philippine Seniors Amateur championship.

The biggest names in the event, including former champions Francis Gamon and Willy Yuvo, are entered in the 54-hole tournament, and Yuvo doesn't see anyone breaking par over the par-68, 6,000-yard course.

"I think something in the neighborhood of 8- or 9-over would be enough to win it," Yuvo, the 2005 champion who also serves as golf manager of Camp Aguinaldo, said after his final practice round.

"It's a very tough course and it will punish to any shots off the tee."

Gamon is another notable in the field together with Dave Hernandez, members of the rock-solid Lakers and Uni-Laboratories squads, respectively, in the PAL Intercircuit.

Other members of those two squads like Mingming Alcaraz, Rudy Acosta and Lloyd Magpantay of Lakers, and Mari Hechanova, Bing Bunyo and Tony Oliver of Unilaboratory are also in the field, making it a multi-pronged race for the championship.

Several other divisions are also set to tee off, with former President Fidel V. Ramos among action in the Super Senior category. Mycaeng R. Castillo

6 Filipinos vying in Paralympics

By Jasmine W. Payo

HE Filipino athletes have earned slots in the 2012 London Paralympic Games as the British Embassy and the British Council has kicked off yesterday the countdown to the world's biggest sporting event for the differently abled.

Josephine Medina, cluster female), Marlou Rivero (athletics male), Jerrold Mangliwan, Jubilee Dumapong-Ancheta, Achelle Guion and Agustin Arao (power lifting) will represent the Philippines in the Games set from 29 to Sept 9. Philippine Sports Association for the Differently Abled (Philpasda) secretary general Butch Pichay announced yesterday.

Beside and Philpasda officials announced the "I Can" photo contest.

"We want to maximize the opportunity the Games present to bring about a change to the way people think, feel and behave toward disability," British Council affairs Steve Lewis said during the PSA Forum yesterday at Bulwar's DS avenue.

Nat'l youth squad gets Energen support anew

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINE Youth Team just got some needed boost with three of its players recently joining the NBA Basketball Without Borders Asia and Energen also returning to bankroll the under-18 squad's international campaigns.

Energen pledged support anew as the biscuit-maker kicked off their title defense bid versus Laos in the 8th Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Under-18 Championship at 6 tonight at the Singapore Basketball Centre.

"We just went back to helping the national team this week," team manager Joel Lejos said during the PBA Forum yesterday at Shakey's UN Avenue.

"The players have been promising with their own allowances, they never got to travel abroad or train. Nice resthacks for this team. It was all love for the sport and love for the country. So we were a bit sandwiched."

Energen supported the national youth program in the last four years, the last during the 2011 Fiba Asia under-16 tournament where the Philippines finished fourth in Nha Trang, Vietnam.

"Our talent in basketball in this age group is truly immense," Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Sonny Barrios, who added that the SBP has also made arrangements with the UAAP and the NCAA after last year's panels team played intern some key players due to conflicting schedules.

Members Jay Alejandro (National University), Prince Rivera (La Salle Green Hills) and Tonton Ramos (Ateneo), meanwhile, recently participated in the NBA Basketball Without Borders camp over a week ago in Tokyo, Japan.

"It was a great experience," said the 17-year-old Ramos, a 6-foot-2 forward. "Not everyone gets to experience this trip and being coached by NBA players and coaches."

The trio put their skills to the test in the international camp where former NBA star Hiroshi Motomiki was among the mentors.

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Favorites advance

But Venus drops out of orbit

MOVIN' Djokovic uses that time for a little pregame rhythm. REUTERS

LONDON—Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic survived an early scare to reach the fourth round after coming back from a set down to beat Spain's Marcel Granollers, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 on Tuesday.

The top-seeded Djokovic, who has been hurt by health problems, was one of 11 United States champions in the women's draw, including current US Open champion Samantha Stosur and 2011 French Open winner Li Na, both of whom also needed three sets to win.

World No. 1 Djokovic was in a playful mood after a shaky start, winning the last four games of the match to advance to a meeting with Frenchman Gilles Simon, who beat Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero.

"I missed it up with a tennis racket," the amiable Serb told reporters of the stunt where he pulled out a junior club from his tracksuit. "It was a little funny thing. Ross convinced me straight away saying this is not a golf club."

Federer, eyeing a record-equaling seventh Wimbledon title, forfeited up with a tasty 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Spain's Albert Ramos, a player without a single title to claim.

Not even being overlooked for a Centre Court slot ruffled the majestic Swiss, who needs one more title here to equal the seven of Pete Sampras.

"Everybody special, because you do realize the moments you walk on to the court that it is a different place from their any other," the 30-year-old told reporters.

Then the suspected slap, no sauce. The whole thing is very much focused on the player-on-court on the sport, which is beautiful."

Hampton, fresh from winning the French Open and reclaiming the world No. 1 ranking, dropped only one point in the opening four games against Australia's Stanislas Bedene to win 6-1, 6-3 victory.

"The first one's always tricky," Hampton told reporters. "To go out there after not competing for a couple weeks, the transition from day to grass, I thought I started off the match really well."

Reuters

Euro: Spain won't abandon style for Ronaldo

BARCELONA, Poland—Spain hasn't altered its playing style to win its current titles, and it won't start now just because it's coming up against Cristiano Ronaldo.

Portugal will be counting on Ronaldo in Wednesday's European Championship semifinal against the defending champions, a current Iberian derby in as many tournaments after Spain beat its neighbor on its way to a World Cup triumph in 2010.

Even so, the title holders ended clear on Monday they are not preparing any major changes just to take account of Ronaldo.

"We've got nothing planned, we'll play the same way regardless of the rival," said Spain midfielder Xabi Alonso, who was involved in many of Real Madrid's 53 goals for Real Madrid last season. "We can make small adjustments sure."

AP

Warriors coach is ABL's best

By Jasmine W. Payo

HOUSTON: Warriors coach Todd Purves topped the Asian Basketball League (ABL) Coach of the Year award, the league announced last night after the American executive steered his Warriors to an upset win of the Shoreseers in Game 3 of the finals series.

"Well, to be honest I have never really thought about any personal awards as we just have a team concept," said Purves, who edged Jun Miguel coach Bobby Parks in the post-season voting system. "With all the good coaches in the ABL, I am truly surprised. I am more than humbled by the respect of my peers."

The Warriors foiled the Boosters's title sweep bid with a 20-point drubbing, 81-61, last Saturday in Jakarta to forge a do-or-die duel in the best-of-three series.

The Boosters, who took Game 1, 86-80, aim to wrap it up this time in Game 3 set at 5 p.m. this Saturday at the Ynares Sports Arena.

Seaoil karters join Asian tilt

SEAOIL-BART Wreckers Gabriel Cabrera and Raymund Cudiala will compete in the opening leg of the 2011 Asian Karting Open Championships kicking off tomorrow at the Kartodromo de Cotai in Macau.

Cabrera and Cudiala are two champion karters competing the lone and team Philippine karting team vying for top honors in the Mini-ICA and KF3 classes, respectively.

The annual Asian Karting Open Championships (AKOC) is touted as Asia's most prominent karting tilt, participated by hundreds of karters from 13 member countries in the region with two legs alternating in Macau, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The two-Seoil Kart Wreckers were chosen to carry the national colors hoping them to success in the ongoing national karting series, aside from their growing list of karting awards.

Cabrera was the overall Cadet champion in the 2011 Asian Karting Open Championships Carmona round while Cudiala was the Cadet Karter of the Year in the 2011 Petron Karting Super Series.

Both Cabrera and Cudiala are currently only in their second year of karting and have formed a strong alliance with younger teammates Dylan Arambolo and Dhineo Abalajon.

Gaining quite a reputation in the local karting scene, Arambolo and Abalajon are likewise expected to follow suit by joining future race legs of the prestigious Asian Karting Open series.

ASYMMETRICAL Cudiala (left) and Gabe Cabrera will vie for the titles in the Mini-ICA and KF3 classes.

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Cordero, Satumbaga defend shoot titles

ABAC Gardens of the Philippine Star and Ernest Satumbaga of the Manila Bulletin will be back to defend their respective titles when the 2nd Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) Shooting Championships frm. Chic Escalante Cup Trap off Friday at the Antonio Bango at Makati Cinema Square.

Cordero scored a perfect 100 points when he ruled the men's division of the inaugural tournament last year, while Satumbaga topped the women's division with ease.

But they expect a fierce competition this time from sports editors and sportswriters.

All PSA members attended a seminar on gun safety conducted by Escalante, an avid sport shooting proponent. Range officials of Antonio also helped in familiarizing PSA members with different gun calibers.

PSA president Rey Bancod, sports editor of Tempo, said participants should attend the refresher course to be able to compete.

The shooting ban the Philippine Basketball Association, myPhone, and solider Arena 3 as major sponsors. Philippine Sports Commission chair Ritchie Garcia and the Basketball Efficiency and Scientific Training Center (Best Center) of former national coach Siot Jorge are minor sponsors.

BY TOP CHOICE
At San Lazaro LP

MySabong.com derby today

THE PROSPECT fighting roosters from the country's top breeders will see action in the MySabong.com derby which kicks off today at San Juan Coliseum.

A guaranteed prize of P500,000 is at stake in the derby which also offers free services such as website hosting and online marketing.

Michael Ma Ana III, president-CEO of Multi-strong.com said the first Visayas derby will be in the cold country's game. Rosalio Faris, said only entries with weights of from 1.8 kilograms to 2.4 kg are to fastest tournament set to P11,000.

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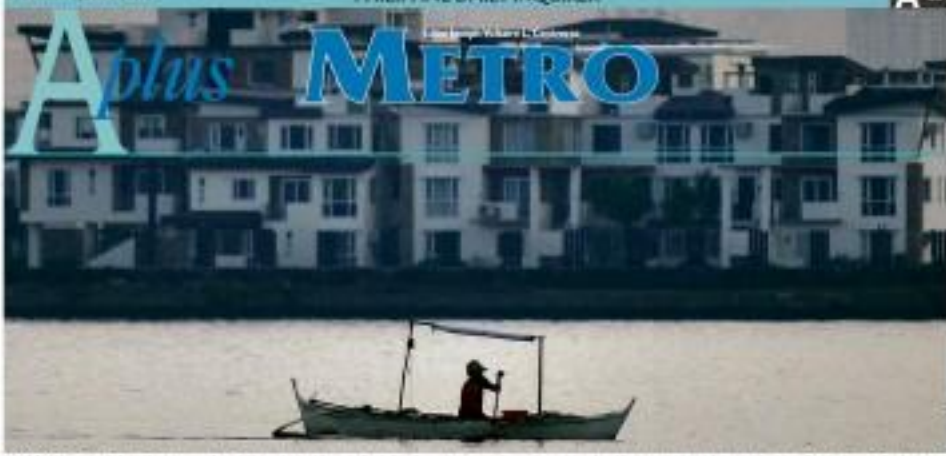

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT Unlike his brothers in the fishing trade who risk running into unfriendly vessels on disputed waters, a most staunchly pushes away with his catch closer to shore, near Pandan Island in Panaluyan City

Kidnapped Burmese boy rescued

NBI led to starving kid in Taytay shanty

By Joannamie I. Andrade

LEFT to starve in a shanty that served as his prison for four days, an 8-year-old Burmese boy kidnapped in Laguna province on Friday was found abandoned yesterday morning in Taytay, Rizal province, by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation.

The boy's first word upon seeing the agents: "Gutom (hungry)." He later asked for fried chicken.

NBI Deputy Director for Regional Operations Virgilio Mendez said the boy was rescued at around 9:30 a.m. yesterday in a small house within Prosville Subdivision, Taytay, on a tip from an anonymous caller.

Mendez said the minor was the same boy reported kidnapped on his way to his school in Biñan, Laguna, early Friday morning, but he maintained that this was only established by the NBI after the operation.

KIDNAPPED, p2A

"HOW TO STOP THE SILENT KILLERS DIABETES AND HEART ATTACK WITHOUT DRUGS"
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SMART
LIVE MORE

SPD camp goes dry; water bill unpaid for 3 mos

Mom killed, 5-yr-old son hurt in Tondo

By Jeannette I. Andrade

"THE BIG MAN stopped us and shot my mother."

In the words of a 5-year-old boy, his aunt from whose grasp he was killed his mother and wounded him in the hand as they were walking home Tuesday morning in Tondo, Manila.

Still a picture of innocence when approached by members of the Manila Police District homicide section, the mute witnessed how his 40-year-old mother Gina Castillo, a resident of Tondo Compound, was murdered at around 11 a.m. yesterday on La Guardia Street.

SPO2 Raul Clemente Andres said the boy simply nodded in affirmation when asked if he saw the killing.

"The last two men of the seven that his mother was killed," he told the lawmen.

Castillo, who reportedly ran a money-lending business, died on the spot after being shot in the body and the chin, while the boy was brought to Mary Johnston Hospital after a bullet grazed his left hand.

"She had just fetched her son from the day care center when the gunmen attacked them," said the case investigator, PO3 Amelito Lopez.

Lopez noted that the incident happened near the site where another woman, 30-year-old Carmelita Pagundoan, was shot dead on Sunday June 17 in another incident involving her child from a hunting session in Binondo.

"The two cases may be related because the victims closely resembled each other and their children were in the same harrowing event," Lopez stressed.

In an earlier bayong interview, Lopez said the June 17 killing may have been a case of mistaken identity after Pagundoan's family members maintained that the had no known enemies other would-be murder.

By Nathaniel B. Meliser

THE HEADQUARTERS of the Southern Police District (SPD) at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City was hit by a "dry spell" on Monday afternoon after Manila Water Co. cut the water supply to the police camp.

The reason for the cutoff: Three months' worth of unpaid water bills totaling P280,000.

SPD spokesperson Supt. Jimmy Tocmo said that all the fixtures within the camp, including drinking fountains, stopped working around 1 p.m. on Monday without an advance notice from the water firm.

The water supply, however, returned to normal yesterday morning after the SPD paid off Manila Water.

Following the incident, the police district said it would investigate whether or not internal anomalies inside the camp may have caused the water bills to balloon.

"When there was no water running, that affected the faucets on Monday afternoon, we thought that [someone had shorted] the camp's main water valve," Tocmo said. "It was only yesterday morning when we confirmed [that] our water supply [had been] turned off."

According to her, Manila Water normally informs the SPD about unpaid bills and issues disconnection notices although this time, the police district did not get any advance notice.

"We paid the bill yesterday morning and got our water supply back before lunch," she said.

Tocmo explained that the payments for utility expenses at the SPD comes from the National Capital Region Police Office.

"The payment gets delayed, especially when we [go beyond] our spending targets. The time, there were also delays in the clearing of the [books for payment]," she said.

"We are in the process of inspecting the infected orifices here, although if they have illegal connections to our water and electricity lines. So far, we haven't found anyone tampering with our utilities," Tocmo said.

Missing cop's female informant found dead

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A MAY after a Manila policeman was reported missing, the woman he was last seen with turned up dead.

A trail of blood led to the discovery of the body of the woman—known only to police sources personnel as "Bangenge" (crazy) and a suspected drug user who turned into a police informant—on the coastline near the boundary of Navotas City and Manila late Monday.

Manila Police District homicide section chief Senior Insp. Joselito de Ocampo said the slain woman was late teen with SPO2 Teodilo Badilla, 34, a member of the MPD District Headquarters Support Unit (DSUU), who was reported missing by his family on Sunday.

Her body was found dumped on the shore near Gaviola Street, Barangay Navotas West, after a residents informed troops of blood that started from the Muralla side of the Manila Bay coastline.

"She was called 'Bangenge' by people at the (MPD) headquarters and used to act as (Badilla's) drug informant," Ocampo said. He added that Bangenge was earlier arrested by antinarcotics personnel and was apparently released in exchange for information on other drug offenders.

According to the Navotas police, the body was found by a resident at around 10:30 p.m. Monday. It have two bullet wounds in the chest and stomach.

"The suspects were different plus ten since the bullet wounds to prevent blood from coming while they dragged the body to the area. They apparently wanted to make it appear that the body simply washed ashore," Ocampo said.

The homicide section also found the retired that the actual killing was done in the Isla Puting Bato down community in Tondo, Manila.

Ocampo also disclosed that Badilla's family on Sunday started receiving text and Facebook messages from people they know telling "warrant" that a policeman had been executed in Isla Puting Bato along with his female companion.

The MPD report said Badilla's and Bangenge left the MPD headquarters together on Saturday afternoon. Before going, he told colleagues that he was heading to Isla Puting Bato for an unstating operation.

Kidnapped Burmese . . .

From page A12

Reports earlier reaching the local police said the child was on a school bus with 13 other children when four men in a red car and armed with automatic rifles blocked the bus's path and took the Burmese boy.

The kidnappers later allegedly demanded a P20-million ransom from the boy's parents, who were initially reported to be owners of a food processing factory in Laguna, Mendez said, citing a report from the Philippine National Police anti-kidnapping group.

But sources in the Bilibid prison and the local government said the boy was more likely a victim of mistaken identity since his parents were not businessmen but factory workers. They said the boy may have been mistaken for the son of the factory's Chinese owners.

"We were told that a child was locked up in the factory and that there were two men who were constantly seen in its vicinity," Mendez said yesterday.

With a clearance from Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, "we went there early with the specific purpose of rescuing the child, whom we immediately presumed to be a kidnap victim based on the initial information we received," Mendez stressed.

"When our agents rescued him, he was alone in a small room, crying and trembling. The door had been secured with a chain and a padlock," Mendez said.

He said the boy was imprisoned in a room measuring about six square meters and propped up by bamboo poles.

Apart from being famished, the boy also appeared to be sleep-deprived when found. "After he was fed and brought here to our headquarters, he slept almost nearly [all] day," he said, adding that aside from mosquito bites, he had no visible injuries."

The boy's reunion with his parents "was very touching," he said. "They wouldn't let go of him and they were in tears, saying thank you over and over again."

But Mendez conceded that the NBI still had no lead on the identity of the boy's kidnappers. With a report from Marlon Ginez, Inquirer Southern Luzon

SQUARE FOR ALL SEASONS
Plaza Miranda outside Quiapo Church in Manila lives up to its historic role as an open stage for advocacy and dissent, this time hosting activists from the EcoWaste Coalition's diarrhea Parrot on Tuesday

METROBRIEFS

Dying man's last words lead to killer's arrest

A DYING MAN'S last words led the police to his killer, resulting in the latter's arrest and the filing of charges against him yesterday, Quezon police PIO Senior Inspector Chito Bersaluna said. Bersaluna identified Richard Lalin, 39, died at Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center where he was confined after he was shot once in the neck on Sunday night in Mauban, Barangay III, Calauan City. "Bill Sumalinog told Chief Inspector Ric Rosete after being shot that night and he told his wife, Rowena, 'I was shot by the barangay chairman Bill,'" Bersaluna said. A few seconds after, Lalin fell unconscious. The victim, the policeman added, had a pending warrant for his arrest for murder charges filed against him in the Calauan Regional Trial Court Branch 020 under Judge Georgina Hidalgo. Based on the information given by the victim's wife who went to the police, members of the Police Community Precinct 1 arrested Arturo Magdato, 50, who denied the accusation against him. Several witnesses, however, confirmed that they saw him assaulting a man at Orchard only before the victim was shot. The motive for the killing, however, has yet to be determined by the police. The case investigator said that Magdato remained under police custody and should he be found positive, the suspect will be charged in additional evidence against him. **Kristine Hilarie Bitonguan**

Woman seeks help for husband's dialysis

SUY OF HIV LOVE for her husband, Aurora Manoe will do anything to ensure he can find her better half, Manuel, undergoes dialysis regularly for his chronic kidney disease at Sta Andres Bonifacio Hospital in Tondo, Manila.

MANUEL Nueva

"My husband has been poorly as all these years that's only his presence is enough. He may just tell them the whole day and my love for him won't diminish," the two married children here. Sta., Manoe said. The 58-year-old former security guard of Procter and Gamble Philippines has been undergoing dialysis since last year, twice a week at P1,200 per session. For months, the Sta. Cruz resident and his partner which comes from the family's save and [inaudible] share. Manoe runs the store with the help of employees. "If I stay or close our store, we will end up with nothing to eat," she said, during her visits to the dialysis sessions. Manuel's husband needs regular injections to maintain his hemoglobin count and he is also not eating from diabetes. He had his left leg in 2010 for the ailment which he has been battling for the last 12 years. Those who want to help the family out with Manuel's medical expenses can reach Manoe at 0921-6080401. For donations, deposits can be made in the bank account of her daughter Rachael Sinaya at BDO account number 1001011306. **Santiago M. Mamaril**

Cops: Suspects same in 2 Robinsons heists

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO OF THE FIVE men in Friday's Robinsons Metro East heist in Pasig City have been linked by the police to the robbery in March at Robinsons Galleria in Quezon City.

Insp. Elmer Monsalve of the Eastern Police District (EPD) homicide section said that the Eastern Police District (EPD) had identified the suspected robbers as Bienvenido Montenegro and Roger Sedapon.

Both remained at large although two of their colleagues in the Galleria robbery—Willy Enriquez and Dennis dela Cruz—were arrested in Iloilo City and charged with robbery and homicide.

Six more men, however, are being sought for their involvement in the March heist which left a security guard dead and five other men wounded.

The robbers struck as two security guards were escorting a bank teller who was about to deliver money to a money changer's shop in the mall's basement.

According to Monsalve, the EPD managed to identify Montenegro and Sedapon through case files and photographs it had requested from the QCPD which was in charge of investigating the Galleria robbery.

A turnabout showed that the two were also among the five armed men who stole P559,000 in cash from two bank tellers at the Robinsons Metro East Townsite last Friday.

In a related development, the Pasig police said they were eyeing the possibility that the Metro East hold-uppers got some help from an insider based on the footage taken by one of the mall's closed circuit television cameras.

This was after a portion of the footage showed one of the mall security guards letting the robbers inside the mall without checking them or their bulging bags first.

In addition, he left the exit doors wide open minutes before the robbery occurred.

However, Pasig police officer in charge Supt. Alfredo Calama-an refused to identify the guard, saying he was not yet a suspect.

"Inside job is one possibility but we still can't close a conclusion on the matter," Calama-an told the Inquirer over the phone.

But at the same time, he noted that the actions of the guard, who was manning the exit/entrance used by the five robbers, were suspicious. "He opened wide the two doors two or three minutes before the shooting erupted," Calama-an said.

Also, when the gunfire sounded, the guard ran out of the mall, ahead of shoppers, he added. With Wilda Calliope

RAMA

MONTENEGRO

Annabelle cleared as prosecutor junks Nadia's falsification raps

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE DISMISSAL by Prosecutor Edwin Macaraeg-Calderon noted that Montenegro's signatures on the supposedly forged documents, when compared to samples she provided the court, appeared to have been written by the same person.

This was based on the results of a handwriting analysis conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation upon Montenegro's request.

"After a careful consideration of the foregoing, the undersigned finds and so holds that there is no probable cause to charge the respondents Nadia with the above-mentioned crime," the prosecutor said.

Montenegro's complaint was just one of several she filed against the artist manager.

Earlier, she charged Ramos with 14 counts of libel over the supposedly libelous statements the latter manager made against her on her Twitter account and in TV interviews.

The other day Ramos pleaded not guilty during her arraignment on the libel charges.

The court, however, ordered both parties to undergo a 30-day mediation period in the hope that the two women would be able to reach an amicable settlement.

Al-Qaida threatens Arab Spring nations, says UK spy chief

LONDON—Al-Qaida militants are using the countries which toppled their leaders in the Arab Spring as bases to train radical Western youths for potential attacks on Britain, the chief of the MI5 Security Service said on Monday.

In his first public speech for nearly two years, Security Service Director General Jonathan Evans said the Arab Spring revolts in Tunisia, Libya, Yemen and Egypt offered long-term hope of a more democratic Middle East.

But Britain's domestic spy chief said al-Qaida, which moved to Afghanistan from Arab countries in the 1990s and threats to Pakistan after the fall of the Taliban, was once again trying to gain a foothold in the Arab world.

"Today, parts of the Arab world have once more become a permissive environment for al-Qaida," Evans said, according to an advance text of a rare speech in London confirming the key threats to British interests.

"A small number of British would-be jihadis are also making their way to Arab countries to seek training and opportunities for militant activity, as they do in Somalia and Yemen. Some will return to the UK and pose a threat here."

"This is a new and worrying development and could get worse," said Evans, a career officer who has served as head of the Security Service since April 2007.

The Arab Spring was lauded by Western leaders who hoped the revolts would usher in prosperity and freedom in the Middle East and North Africa, though Islamists have come to power in elections in Tunisia and Egypt.

Libya has been radical by turn and while al-Qaida militants are expanding their foothold in the south of Yemen. A plot by al-Qaida in Yemen to blow up an airliner en route to the United States was foiled in May by a British spy. *Reuters*

Ousted Paraguay leader hopes to regain power

ASUNCION—Ousted Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo said on Monday that he is planning to return to power and will rally allies at home and abroad after a landslide congressional vote forced him from office in what he called a break with democracy.

Lugo has symbolically created a parallel Cabinet, attacking the legitimacy of the government due to placed him, and told reporters he will seek to upload his case on the international stage at this week's summit of the Mercosur trade bloc in Mendoza, Argentina. Lugo said he would also challenge the new leaders over Paraguay's role in a broader alliance of South American nations.

He also called on domestic leaders, who so far have been relatively quiet, to turn up the pressure.

"I want to make sure we regain power because here there was a parliamentary coup," he said Monday morning after meeting militants at a left-leaning party's headquarters in the capital. "I call on people from the countryside, the youth and all citizens to resist until we get back in the office we unfairly had to leave."

Meanwhile, aides to former Vice President Federico Franco, who was installed as president on Friday after lawmakers overwhelmingly voted to dismiss Lugo, condemned a Mercosur resolution preventing his new government from attending the summit. Franco's new foreign minister, Jose Felix Fernandez, noted that Paraguay has also been suspended from the group that also includes neighboring Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

LUGO

"The reject Mercosur's decision is unjustified from the right to amend the Mercosur meetings, but I would like to make clear that Paraguay is not out of the bloc," Fernandez said. He said it was a measure "for just one meeting, until Paraguay contributes to have the proper presidency of the Union of South American Nations," another regional group, known as Unasur.

But Lugo has said he intends to hand over Unasur's rotating presidency to Pres Dilma Rousseff, meeting in Mendoza. Ecuador's foreign minister, Ricardo Patino, told reporters in Quito that leaders of Unasur countries may meet this week to take up the issue.

Congress booted Lugo out of office in fast-track proceedings last week that were led by a clutch of lawmakers and lawless protesters to which 17 people died. The former friend has guilty of poor performances of his duties, citing a clause in the constitution that leaves wide room for congressional interpretation. Franco was tapped to serve out the remainder of Lugo's term, until August 2013.

After saying last week that he would honor the outcome, however, Lugo has reversed course.

"I accepted the coup because only to avoid greater evils for the country and social violence against protesters in the place" in front of Congress, Lugo said on Monday. He left the government palace three days ago and has been staying at his home on the outskirts of Asuncion.

"It's impossible for Lugo to return to power because the sovereign and autonomous decisions of Congress is irreversible. It doesn't allow for appeal because it was a political process, not a judicial one," Emilio Ayala, a lawyer for Franco, told reporters. "What's more, Lugo himself resigned his dismissal as he left the government palace."

The Supreme Court on Monday denied a request by Lugo to overturn the Senate trial that removed him from office. Military officials also said they would not intervene.

Franco's government has said Lugo has been reinstated. After thousand people demonstrated outside Congress last week, and a smaller group carried out for a weekend protest.

An "open microphone" demonstration where citizens have been speaking out against Lugo's ouster is planned by a clutch lawmakers on Wednesday this time, at least 100 people from the countryside traveled to the capital to take part. *AP*

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WORLDBRIEFS

Facebook users angry with e-mail switch

MENLO PARK—Facebook has changed your e-mail address. That's how it appears after a quiet change in the way the company displays users' contact information. Facebook replaced the e-mail addresses some chose when they signed up with a Facebook.com address. The Facebook e-mail accounts allow users to communicate with outside e-mail addresses via Facebook. The changes were first pointed out by bloggers over the weekend, leading to complaints from users. A no-mail message to Facebook representatives seeking an explanation was not immediately returned. *AP*

18 killed in Uganda landslide

KAMPALA—At least 18 people were killed in eastern Uganda on Monday after a landslide buried several settlements in a coffee-growing area on the slopes of Mount Elgon straddling the Kenyan border, the Uganda Red Cross said. A local member of parliament, David Wakikona, told Reuters that up to 300 people could have been buried and local media reported that hundreds could be missing. It was not immediately possible to verify these reports. Red Cross spokesperson Catherine Wabwire said: "From the reports we have so far, we only confirm 18 dead but assessment of the devastation around the area is continuing." Wakikona said three villages had been flattened in Bumwalukani parish on the slopes of Mount Elgon. *Reuters*

Kuwait's Cabinet submits resignation

KUWAIT—Kuwait's Cabinet submitted its resignation to the Gulf state's ruler on Monday in a move some parliamentarians believe could be a first step out of the political crisis over the country's electoral laws, state news agency KUNA reported. The government's resignation came days after state court annulled a February parliamentary election that gave the Islamist-led opposition a majority, ruling that a previous more government-friendly assembly should reassemble instead. The Cabinet resigned "in order to complete all the constitutional procedures for implementing the constitutional court decision," Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad al-Mubarak al-Sabah told a news conference. *Reuters*

Militants kill 13 Pakistani troops, behead 7

ISLAMABAD—Militants crossed into Pakistan from Afghanistan and killed 13 Pakistani troops, beheading seven of them, the Pakistani military charged, amid the country's outraged new prime minister said he would protest to the Afghan president. The border skirmish is a new sign of tensions between the uneasy neighbors. Pakistan has complained that militants use parts of Afghanistan for sanctuary to stage attacks inside Pakistan. Pakistani military officials said militants from Afghanistan crossed in the northwestern Pakistan's Upper Dir region Sunday night and clashed with Pakistan troops on a patrol. The military said six Pakistani troops were killed outright. Seven who went missing were beheaded, while four of the missing have not been found. *AP*

Rescue efforts stopped in Canada mall collapse

ELLIOT LAKE, ONTARIO—The threat of another collapse at a shopping mall in Northern Ontario forced rescuers to cease its attention their search for possible survivors despite recent signs of life, officials said on Monday, two days after part of the roof collapsed and killed at least one person. Saturday's collapse in the middle of a bustling day also left at least one person trapped. Officials said at least two bodies were still inside the building, including a person who recently showed signs of life and could still be alive. "That person is still there," said Ontario Provincial Police liaison Percy Jeffrymore. "I don't know the condition of that individual." *AP*

High court junks Arizona's new immigration law

WASHINGTON—The US Supreme Court struck down most of Arizona's new immigration law on Monday but let stand a key provision requiring police spot-checks that critics say could lead to racial profiling.

Arizona's Republican Gov. Jan Brewer hailed a "legal victory" and said the highest court in the land had ruled that the "heart" of the draconian law was constitutional and could now be enforced.

President Barack Obama voiced concern that the controversial "check your papers" provision had been upheld, saying: "No American should ever live under a cloud of suspicion just because of what they look like."

Opponents of the law took heart from the fact that the Supreme Court abolished three quarters of the provisions and the fourth element perhaps has only a temporary reprieve because the legislation is yet to be implemented.

The Arizona law has aroused intense controversy because of a particular provision, 2(B), that requires police to demand proof of citizenship of anyone they stop and suspect of being illegal, even without probable cause.

In a victory for Obama's Republican opponents, justices unanimously refused to strike down the key clause, as they said it was unclear, before the law's actual implementation, that it raised constitutional concerns.

"It was improper to enjoin 2(B) before the state courts had an opportunity to construe it and without some showing that 2(B)'s enforcement in fact conflicts with federal immigration law and its objectives," said the ruling, which left the matter open to future challenges.

Justices rejected a series of other provisions, including those that would have criminalized immigrants for failing to register with the federal government, or for working work or working without proper documents.

They also struck down a clause that would have allowed police to arrest those suspected of being deportable without a warrant.

Frank Janouski, head of Amnesty International's Washington office, welcomed the broader sense of the ruling, but said: "We are disappointed that the court failed to draw a clearer line in the sand against racial profiling." *AFP*

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quico

Turkey seeks Nato help after Syria downs jet

ANKARA—Turkey is to demand backing from its Nato allies on Thursday at a special meeting called after Syrian troops shot down a Turkish warplane last week in an incident Damascus said was self-defense but which Ankara branded an "act of aggression."

It is only the second time in Nato's 63-year history that a has convened under Article 4 of its charter which provides for consultations when a member state feels its territorial integrity, political independence or security is under threat.

Turkey rejected assertions from Damascus that its forces had no option but to fire on the F-4 jet as it flew over Syrian waters just close to the coast on Friday.

In a letter to the UN Security Council, Turkey condemned the "hostile act by the Syrian armed forces" and said it "poses a threat to international security," saying it posed "a serious threat to peace and security in the region."

Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc told a news conference that Syria's actions "would not go unpunished."

The incident has further heightened tensions between Turkey and Syria already deadened by near-breaking point over the 16-month uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's rule.

Though not known for his restraint, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has on the issue narrowed in his response, perhaps due to Western indications it is reluctant to step militarily into the civil war many himself of anything that could trigger a regional sectarian rule.

European Union foreign ministers called on Monday for Turkey to show restraint, saying they would increase pressure on Assad.

"Military intervention in Syria is out of the question," said Dutch Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal.

After a seven-hour Turkish Cabinet meeting in which an air force chief gave a detailed briefing on Friday's incident, Arinc said Erdogan would make an announcement on Syria on Tuesday.

Arinc's description of the event as an act of self-defense, though tempered with restraint, is a "neighborly relationship," seemed likely to further anger Ankara.

"The plane disappeared and then reappeared in Syrian airspace. Being at 200 meters altitude and about one to two kilometers from the Syrian coast," Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jihad Makdisi told a Damascus news conference.

"We had to react immediately, even if the plane was Syrian we would have shot it down," he said. "The Syrian response was an act of defense of our sovereignty carried out by anti-aircraft machine gun within less than a minute-an range of 2.3 kilometers."

Syria warned Turkey and like to against retaliating.

"Syria is supposed to be there to strengthen countries," said Makdisi. "If their reacting it for border reasons then should know that's Syrian land and waters are sacred."

The only other time Nato has convened under Article 4 was in 2003 to discuss the Iraq war, again at the request of Turkey.

By invoking Article 4 of the Washington treaty, allies can discuss, but is called for military action, Turkey has signaled it wants action against Syria short of armed intervention. *Reuters*

TURKISH coast guard vessels for the Bahtim-a plane which was downed by Syria on Friday off Samandag in Hatay province in the eastern Mediterranean. AP

2nd Turkish plane fired at, but missed

ANKARA/BEIRUT—Turkey said on Monday Syrian forces had fired toward a Turkish military transport plane involved in a search for an F-4 reconnaissance jet shot down by Syria last week, but the second aircraft was not brought down.

Damascus described its shooting down of the F-4 jet on Friday as an act of self-defense and warned Ankara and its Nato allies against any retaliation. Turkey said the incident would "not go unpunished" but it did not intend to go to war over it.

The disclosure of the second incident came on the eve of a Nato crisis meeting that Turkey summoned to address the shooting down of its F-4 jet, which Ankara has described as an unprovoked attack in international airspace.

In small-diameter diameter of Rome, the head of a 16-month-old revolt against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, rebels turned troops as aid workers raced to evacuate civilians. Turkish television reported the downing of a Syrian general and other officers across the border.

Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc told a news conference that Turkey would protect itself within the framework of international law against what it called Syria's "hostile action" of downing its F-4 reconnaissance jet last week.

Arinc said at the end of a seven-hour Cabinet meeting dealing with the incident: "Everyone should know that this kind of action will not remain unpunished."

But he added, "Whatever is needed to be done will definitely be done within the framework of international law. We have no intention of going to war with anyone. We have no such intent."

Arinc said that shortly after the F-4 was shot down, four helicopters and two ships were dispatched on an initial search operation, followed by a military turboprop transport aircraft.

"One plane, which had gone to rescue the pilots, was fired upon. The operation was brought to an end following a warning from our foreign ministry that the area was a short period of balancing fire," said Arinc.

A foreign ministry official later said the plane returned to Turkish airspace immediately after being fired on and the search and rescue operation resumed following communications "through military and diplomatic channels." He said there were no injuries to anyone aboard the transport aircraft.

According to Ankara's account of Friday's episode, the aircraft entered Syrian airspace briefly and by satellite radar as a redirect to see Turkish air defenses.

Some analysts have suggested it might in fact have been testing the responsiveness of Russian-supplied Syrian radar that could pose a major obstacle to any foreign intervention, including supply of Syrian rebels or reconnaissance support.

Arinc said Syrian air "elements" had violated Turkish airspace "a few times previously" but that the incidents had been verbal protests.

Syria's account of Friday's incident, though tempered with a stated commitment to a "neighborly relationship," seemed likely to increase anger in Turkey ahead of the Nato gathering.

Turkey says the wreckage of the aircraft, shot down close to the Mediterranean maritime borders of both states, is lying in deep water. Malaysia said some Britons had been found and given to Turkey. There was no word on other crew on board. *Reuters*

THREESIXTY Pharmacy, the country's leading provider of "quality drugs for quality life", celebrates its second year in the business with the theme "Sixty is Two." This concept signifies the recent developments in its operations wherein the company now reaches out to the Visayas region with 60 branches in just two years. It also looks to expand to Mindanao and Luzon areas by next year. To kick off its 2nd anniversary celebration, ThreeSixty Pharmacy organized fun-filled and star-studded shows from May 26 to 27 at Ayala Center Cebu. Pinoy Big Brother Unlimited stars were guests of the first show. While ABS-CBN top talents Gerard Anderson, Matteo Guidicelli and Maricar Reyes graced the second show. Thousands flocked to Ayala Activity Area to watch this two-day event with live entertainment, games and surprises. In the photo are PBB stars with ThreeSixty Pharmacy operations team.

EU toughens sanctions vs Syria

BRUSSELS—The European Union weighed on sanctions against Syria on Tuesday, piling both it from its 6 Syrian bank, aircraft company and a government spokesperson.

The little round of sanctions against Syria are part of EU efforts to pressure President Bashar al-Assad into ending his violent repression of a 15-month-old uprising against his rule.

In Tuesday's move, the European Union added the Syria International Islamic Bank (SIIB) and Syria's national oil company "Sytrol" to its list of targeted groups, according to an official journal, where EU laws are published.

"From 2011 to 2012, SIIB was repeatedly facilitated financing of $100 million on behalf of the Commercial Bank of Syria," the EU announcement said.

The bank has 30 branches and three offices in Syria and has already been sanctioned by the US Treasury, which has accused the bank of helping Syria's state-owned Commercial Bank to evade US

The bloc also added a travel ban against Ibrahim Ghanem, an adviser to Assad who has served as a government spokesperson.

A number of Syrian government bodies were also named in the sanctions list, including the defense and interior ministries, the national security bureau and the military radio and television corporation.

Syrian security forces have killed at least 10,000 people, by a UN count, while Syria says 2,000 military and security forces personnel have been killed by rebels it calls foreign-backed "Islamist terrorists." *Reuters*

2009 swine flu claimed more lives than reported, says study

PARIS—The A/H1N1 "swine flu" 2009 pandemic probably claimed over a quarter of a million lives—21 times more than the 18,500 reported, a paper in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal said on Tuesday.

The elevated toll underlined the need for better planning and vaccine distribution, said a team of epidemiologists and physicians who made a statistical model based on population and infection estimates to present what they believe is a more accurate picture of the pandemic's ravages.

"This study is one of the first to provide a global estimate of deaths caused by the 2009 H1N1 virus," lead author Fatimah Dawood of the US government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told AFP in an e-mail exchange.

"Unlike most other mortality estimates for the 2009 pandemic, this study includes estimated mortality for countries in Southeast Asia, and Africa, where overall, latest data on influenza-associated mortality are limited."

Some 18,000 deaths had been reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) from confirmed laboratory test results, but the international researchers believe the number to be a gross underestimation.

They wrote that "... diagnostic specimens are not always obtained from people who die, with influenza and the viruses might no longer be detectable by the time of death in some people."

The team estimated there were 284,500 deaths from swine flu in the 12 months from April 2009. But the figure may be as high as 575,400, they said.

Between 250,000 and 500,000 people die of seasonal influenza every year, according to the WHO.

In the 20 months since H1N1 was the "predominant virus," said Dawood.

But computing the numbers alone did not yield an accurate picture, she stressed, as 80 percent of swine-flu victims were younger than 65, while the yearly seasonal flu usually leads to claims older victims.

The researchers said 71 percent of swine flu deaths were estimated to have occurred in south-east Asia and Africa, which account for 38 percent of the world's population.

The team hoped the work would help improve planning and surveillance, as well as boost vaccine production and delivery, especially to African and southeast Asia, Dawood of Yahoo pandemics.

Dubbed swine flu, the virus affirmed some 214 countries and territories after it was announced in Mexico and the United States in April 2009.

The WHO declared it a pandemic in June that year. It was declared over in August 2010.

A WHO-appointed group of experts last year published a damning report on the UN health agency's handling of the pandemic, saying that it failed to issue timely guidance and that to fix plans needed revision.

The Council of Europe accused the agency of causing unjustified scares and a waste of public money as countries scrambled to buy vaccines. AFP

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

■ **Malampaya shutdown** to hike Luzon rates /B2-1

5-month budget deficit at ₱22.79B

Gov't spending up 13.1%, revenues gain 11%

By Norman V. Donsigo

THE NATIONAL government posted a budget deficit of P19.9 billion in May as the growth of expenses outpaced that of revenues, according to the Bureau of the Treasury.

This brought the deficit for the first five months of the year to P22.79 billion, which was just about a fifth of the P109.24 billion that the government intended to spend on top of the budget for the first semester.

The five-month deficit was, however, more than twice the P9.54 billion recorded in the same period of 2011.

January-May expenses reached P668.43 billion, which was three-fourths of the program for the first half but 13.1 percent higher year-on-year.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad yesterday said spending continued to speed up, particularly driven by maintenance and other operating expenses as well as a record high capital outlay for the five-month period.

"Disbursements in May alone reached the highest (monthly) level and fastest year-on-year growth so far compared to the previous months of the summer year," Abad said.

Expenditures amounted to P121.2 billion in May, 15.7 percent higher than the P120.90 billion spent in the same month last year. Revenues reached P131.46 billion, an increase of 9.4 percent from P120.09 billion a year ago.

Five-month revenues reached P645.64 billion, which was 83 percent of the goal for the first semester but 11 percent higher than last year's level.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said deficit figures in May showed that the government's fiscal space remained within enough to support growth.

"We are pleased with the continued rise in revenue collections, specially those that allows us to pursue our spending programs for the year while making sure that our fiscal performance remains under control," Purisima said.

"The wide fiscal space will now give us an advantage to finance infrastructure projects and social programs that will, in the long-term, curb poverty and promote equality," he said.

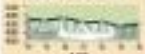
From January to May, the Bureau of Internal Revenue contributed revenues of P409.82 billion, which was 82 percent of the first-half target but 12.5 percent higher than last year's collection.

The Bureau of Customs chipped in P126.19 billion, which was 72 percent of the first-half target but 12.4 percent better than last year's collection. The Treasury turned in

| MORE IN B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
June 26, 2012
42.470



STOCK MARKET
June 26, 2012
▲ 26.64

Stocks continue to rise

LOCAL stocks continued to gain ground yesterday despite lingering global uncertainties, aided by quarter-end and semester-end window-dressing.

The main share index, Philippine Stock Exchange index (psei), gained 26.64 points or 0.82 percent to close at 3,193.84, rising for the third straight session.

The day's opening was still led by index heavyweight PLDT, which rose by another 1.81 percent to close at P2,03.4 a share.

Investors also picked up shares of index stocks SMC (+1.39 percent), Ayala (+0.43 percent), Meralco Power (+0.48 percent), Petron (+3.21 percent), ABV (+0.43 percent), Globe (+0.86 percent) and Ortigas Ali (+0.26 percent).

An outperformer for the day was Phoenix gas exploration firm Philex Petroleum, which surged 6 percent on news that Freeport decision was likely to ease restrictions on Manuel V. Pangilinan's exploration ventures with China.

But the same gains were hampered by the decline of Metrobank, Ayala Land, Megaworld, BPI, First Gen and ICTSI. Bloomberry, Security Bank and First Holdings also ended in the red.

Local stocks managed to defy a sluggish sentiment across the region.

Dona C. Dumlao

Imports down 13.7% in April; electronics off 22%

By Riza T. Chiongbian

PHILIPPINE imports dropped 13.7 percent in April—the deepest dive in the this year—to $4.77 billion from $5.52 billion a year ago, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday. Imports fell 13.2 percent in January, grew 2.3 percent in February then weakened 9.3 percent in March.

Similarly, NSO said, imports were down 11.2 percent compared to previous month's $5.37 billion. Total imports for the first four months shrank 9.6 percent to $20.27 billion from $22.26 billion in the same period in 2011.

Electronics, which made up about a fourth of imports for the month of April, were down 22.1 percent at $1.22 billion from $1.56 billion in April last year. Electronics also was 4.6 percent down from $1.28 billion in the previous month. Semiconductors, which make up the bulk of electronics trade, fell 29 percent to $1.03 billion from $1.44 billion a year ago.

Total outward trade in goods for April reached $9.4 billion, a decline of 4.7 percent from $9.81 billion in the same month in 2011. This was due to the 13.7-percent decline in imports from $5.52 billion to $4.77 billion in April. Exports increased by only 7.6 percent to $4.64 billion from $4.31 billion in April 2011. The balance of trade for the Philippines in April this year was a deficit of $135 million, sharply lower than the $1.22-billion deficit in the same period last year.

Professor Benjamin Diokno of the UP School of Economics said the April imports numbers were not constitutional with its recovery on the rise. On the contrary, they rep-

| MORE IN B2

DOTC holds transfer of franchises to Pantranco

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT has deferred its confirmation of the validity of the sale of close to 500 buses from Pantranco bus company franchisees to the Victory Liner group following opposition from rival bus firms.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas, due to anti-competition concerns, had ordered a review of the regulator's decision to allow the transfer of the dispatched franchises to a single player.

The confirmation of the Letter of Authorities has been postponed to no one can say there's business yet," LTFRB board member Manuel Iway said in an interview yesterday.

Also say franchise is granted to an individual by the LTFRB, the regulator will needs to confirm whether there is a corresponding vehicle that meets the necessary government standards to which the franchise will be assigned.

"Once we confirm a franchise, only then can there be used on the road," Iway said.

The postponement came after the two companies—GV Florida Trans, Dagupan Bus Lines, Swelog Transit, Fortis, and Bulacan Transit—asked the DOTC to prohibit the transfer of the franchises to the Victory Liner group, the country's biggest bus company.

Ownership of the disputed franchises was included by the Court of Appeals—upholding a Makati-sala Lolita Bautista Comission—in favor of former Pantranco employees that never got their retirement benefits when the company closed down. When the employees later sold the franchises to the Bermudez family, which in turn sold to Victory Liner and several other bus firms.

LTFRB's head, for his part, was puzzled at the fact bus firms' opposition, saying they never opposed the transfer until done were sold to Victory Liner. "They could have filed a motion for reconsideration when we awarded

| DOTC B2

DONALD Trump Jr., Century Properties Group chair Jose E.B. Antonio, Eric Trump and Century Properties managing director and Trump Tower Manila project head Rolando Antonio pose for photographers after the ground-breaking ceremony of "Trump Tower in Makati City.

Trumps eye more PH projects

By Dara C. Dantao

TWO SONS of American tycoon Donald Trump flew in from New York yesterday for the ground-breaking of Trump Tower Manila, a luxury tower to be developed by Century Properties Group and the first of what is hinted to be a series of property projects involving the Trump brand in the Philippines.

"This will not be our last project in the Philippines. We're looking forward to adding not a couple of things," Donald Trump Jr. said in a press briefing. He hinted that talks have started with the Ayala-founded Century group for follow-up projects.

Trump Tower Manila is a ₱230-million, 36-story residential development project of Century with the brand name and mark under license from the Trump. It will rise in Century City, the Century group's 3.4-hectare flagship development along Kalayaan Avenue in Makati City.

Century founder and chair Jose Antonio said that project was only informal in outlining the positioning of greater Metro Manila as a "true metropolitan" city. The master plan encompasses cities elsewhere in the region like Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore had captured a lot of investments and having a quality development and a strong brand should give us Metro Manila in turn a better position.

"Quality will always be remembered long after the price have been forgotten," he said.

The residential units in Trump Tower Manila is selling at an average P100,000 a square me-

| MORE IN B2

Megawide 2012 revenues seen to top P1-B mark

Construction firm embarks on diversification strategy

By Doris C. Dumlao

MEGAWIDE Construction Corp. aims to breach the P1-billion net income mark this year as it books more revenues from ongoing diversification projects.

In a press briefing after the company's stockholders meeting on Tuesday, company officials noted that, moving forward, the corporate thrust would be to move "beyond vertical" and "beyond Metro Manila."

"We have already made significant inroads outside of our usual-established territories. We have formally gone out of our comfort zone of vertical high-rise projects in Metro Manila and now dipped our toes in the government's much-vaunted public-private partnership projects which include roads and bridges, power plants, airports, school buildings and mass housing," said Megawide president Edgar Saavedra.

Megawide chair Michael Cosiquien said the company had also diversified its revenue stream which as of end-2011 was 99-percent reliant on residential development, from 80 percent to date, but said such ratio had gone down to 60-percent.

Most of the revenues to be recognized by Megawide this year will come from residential projects contracted by IM Development Corp. and the Hilmarc group in Metro Manila.

But as part of its planned expansion of geographical footprint, the company recently bagged a P1.28-billion contract with Hilmarc Land involving the redevelopment of a former prison site in Cebu City into a business process outsourcing hub.

Cosiquien said Megawide was feeling the impact of domestic economic expansion in the form of robust demand for office developments, which was why the company was able to bring down the share of residential business to the total portfolio.

Trumps

From page B1

tor. Based on the size range of between 57 and 400 square meters, the smallest unit is priced at P13.4 million and the biggest at P80 million. The units will be turned over in buyers by 2016.

Bobbi Antonio, Century managing director, said 70 percent of the 222-unit residential development had already been sold since the project was launched in September 2011.

"The fact that a Trump-branded development is rising in the Philippines is a testament to the increased confidence of the international sector in our country's potential to become a world-class destination. As a standard bearer of excellence in residential living, Trump Tower stands also as testament to the Philippines as the ideal place to reside now for global citizens," the younger Antonio said.

"We are overwhelmed with the tremendous success of this project in such a short time. Trump Tower Manila has already received accolades even prior to breaking ground, which is an incredible accomplishment further showcasing the strength of the local market and its increasing demand in the ownership of luxury real estate," Eric Trump said.

He added that the design of Trump Tower Manila was such that the Trumps "intend to have the best building not only in the Philippines but in Asia and the world."

5-month budget

From page B1

P46.09 billion, surpassing the first-half target by 147 percent but 3.2 percent less than the year-ago level.

Other government offices yielded P39.02 billion, which made the BIR's collection for first-half goal and 10.6 percent better year-on-year.

DOTC

From page B1

the franchisees to the employees for they never did," Sarmiento said.

Meanwhile, Agham party list Rep. Angelo Palmones yesterday asked the House transportation committee to investigate the DPHB's move, echoing the statements by the complaining bus companies that the franchising bureau "legally dead" for nearly two decades. Palmones filed House Resolution No. 2537 so the chamber could look deeper into the franchise period, which he claimed as "barely known and illegal."

Power Situation Outlook
for Wednesday, 27 June 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,271	1,657	1,181
System Peak (MW)	7,371	1,372	1,289
Grid Reserve (MW)	900	284	-108

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MERALCO STRENGTHENS OMYA MINERAL PHILS., INC OPERATIONS

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Omya Mineral Phils., Inc., unveiling the industrial minerals company under Meralco's Customer Choice Program (CCP) and enabling its production facility to be more efficient. Using the most advanced calcium carbonate crushing plant in the Philippines, Omya has built its reputation as a quality provider of minerals that are used as fillers for soap, detergents, paints and plastic products. Under the MOA, Omya can maximize its production by shifting its operations to off-peak hours, or periods when power rates are considerably lower, and further boost its plant efficiency. In photo are Meralco Vice President and Corporate Business Group head Victor A. Gerardez and Omya Mineral Phils., Inc. General Manager Michael G. Ong (first and second from right). Joining them in the Omya facility tour are (from left) Omya Mineral Phils., Inc. Production Manager Antonio Roy C. Yingson, Meralco Corporate Relationship Manager Robert T. Tenio and Meralco Assistant Vice President and Private Sector Relationship Management head Ma. Cecilia M. Domingo. (Josef Concio observing operations at the Omya facility)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

June 26, 2012	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.26501	1.00000	43.5125
Japan	Yen	0.01594	0.01260	0.5487
United Kingdom	Pound	1.5845	1.25255	54.5171
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.16303	0.12885	5.6081
Switzerland	Franc	1.05780	0.83612	36.3923
Canada	Dollar	0.71170	0.56257	24.4938
Singapore	Dollar	0.80993	0.64019	27.8719
Australia	Dollar	0.75150	0.59410	25.8614
Taiwan	Dollar	1.37435	0.02961	113.1469
South Korea	Won	0.00087	0.00069	0.0298
Brunei	Dollar	0.62750	0.49599	21.5858
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00011	0.00009	0.0038
Thailand	Baht	0.03986	0.03151	1.3717
UAE	Dirham	0.34445	0.27227	11.8488
EU	Euro	1.00000	0.79050	34.4045
Kuwait	Dinar	4.38660	3.46800	150.9287
China	Yuan***	0.19949	0.15770	6.8622
Denmark	Krone	0.13425	0.10612	4.6178
India	Rupee	0.01809	0.01430	0.6221
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.39551	0.31268	13.6059
New Zealand	Dollar	0.61754	0.48815	21.2413
Sweden	Krona	0.13101	0.10355	4.5061
Vietnam	Dong	0.00005	0.00004	0.0017

Source: Bankers Association of the Philippines
*Selling rate/Buying rate **Buying rate as reported by BSP ***Offshore rate

PLDT smenation
Success Made Easy

SUCCESS TALK IN BAGUIO

PLDT SME Nation recently launched its nationwide series of business empowerment forums dubbed "Success Talk", to SMEs in Northern Luzon. Held in Baguio City, the entrepreneurship forum aims to help SME's across the country achieve success by learning the latest trends in business from prominent business experts and discovering how technology can play an important role by enhancing productivity and increasing profit.

"We came up with the Success Talk forums to provide an educational platform for entrepreneurs who want to further grow their businesses with the help of technology," said PLDT VP and Head of SME Nation Kat Luna-Abelarde.

Aimed at tapping SMEs in the country's key cities, Success Talk was first organized in Cebu, Manila, Davao and Cagayan De Oro (top) are also set to happen within the next few months.

During the forum, motivational speaker Anthony Pangilinan tackled the importance of leadership in managing successful businesses. PERN Inc. President Tommanny Tan talked about an entrepreneur's ability to constantly think out of the box to improve and expand the business, while PR Gaz Haus co-owner Siu Ping Par, tackled how to effectively market a common household commodity and stand out of the rest of the competition for the benefit of SMEs.

Entrepreneur Jay Aldeguer of Islands Souvenirs gave his insights on tapping the Filipino's ingenuity in business for promoting the Philippines as a world-class tourist destination.

A panel composed of PLDT SME Nation Bossings— Tommanny Tan, Jay Aldeguer and Siu Ping Par, Anthony Pangilinan and Go Negosyo's Executive Director Mon Lopez, answered questions from the attendees and shared their insights and personal experiences when they were starting their own businesses.

Be a Successful Bossing. Join the next leg of PLDT SME Nation's Success Talk.

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Miners seek new tax system

Group says taxes should be based on profit, not gross output

By Ros T. Dimiandro

THE CHAMBER of Mines of the Philippines is pushing for a progressive tax system for the mining sector that will enable the government to generate more revenue from mining.

In a statement, the industry group said that while firms in most mining-dominant countries such as Australia and Chile were taxed on net profit, Philippine companies were paying taxes based on gross output.

The group said it would propose a new legislation that would change the tax system for mining. It did not give details of its recommendation but the group is looking forward to the adoption of a net income-based tax system.

In the meantime, the industry group said it appreciates the apparent care with which the government is reviewing its mining policy.

According to the Chamber of Mines, the mining industry holds much potential in driving economic and social development, especially with the rising prices of metals worldwide.

The group said investors were ready to put their stake in the country and the government really needs to maintain its position of certainty" and ensure the proper implementation of current laws and fiscal regime.

"Our member companies are eagerly waiting for the issuance of the executive order to enable them to pursue their mining activities that are subjected to being in line of capital investments," the industry group said.

The government is considering options for greater revenue share in mining, including the declaration of all mining areas as minerals reservation and/or the implementation of a "50-50" revenue sharing scheme with mining firms.

The Philippines aims to attract $3.17 billion in mining investments this year. This may be slashed by the third quarter if the long-awaited mining policy has not come out by then, according to the country's investment officials.

The mining policy was originally scheduled for issuance last year but the deadline was moved several times, with the latest being June 21.

Palace officials and those of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the policy was up for "minor" revisions. They maintained that the mining policy remained an "urgent matter" for the government.

How to make money in a sideways market

MONEY MATTERS
Henry Ong

QUESTION: The market seems to be trading nowhere these days. There are days when the market is up but the next week seems to lose. Once it goes down, it seems to go to previous low and it goes up again. It has been like this for weeks. I am confused and I don't know if this is the time to sell or buy. Can you advise me? —RJ, Almajor-by-e mail

A: Yes, it is not easy to trade when the market is nonmoving because the uncertainties will simply limit your opportunities to profit. Sideways market seems to indicate that market trades within a narrow range without any clear direction. This is a natural market behavior when traders and investors prefer to wait and see after a significant sell-off. The PSE index has fallen by as much as 9% percent from an all-time high of 5,559.01 to a low of 4,864 recently. It has since then slowly recovered and drifted sideways to date. You will notice that the average volume traded has also decreased indicating lack of market interest.

But this is temporary. Normally, when sideways market occurs, players are anticipating a breakout of the trading range either upward or downward. If the market is expected to prolong in sideways movement, it is very likely it will eventually break down because investors will get impatient and sell their stocks to raise money for investment somewhere else. This only happens when the opportunity cost of investing outside the stock market is very high.

Our current economic backdrop tells otherwise. Interest rates are falling, inflation rate is declining to historical lows. Our credit rating is expected to get an upgrade soon. There is enough support to expect that the market will soon end its consolidation phase and resume its uptrend. Although the market is moving sideways, the PSE index over the past few weeks has been trending slowly to higher lows, which means there is a significant bargain hunting activity taking place whenever the stock prices fall at attractive levels.

This is a good opportunity for you to come in and accumulate stocks that you expect to perform well when the market returns to bullish. In the case of Meralco, you should look for any those that surpass the PSE index because they are the first ones that will move strongly. These are the so-called blue chips because of the size of their market capitalization and investment fundamentals. However, not all are profitable and, therefore, not all have reliable values.

Start by reviewing the list up and select the stocks that will be part of your portfolio. You can choose 10 to 15 stocks and divide your holdings. PLDT is a good buy because it is trading at prospective P/E ratio of only 14x earnings, cheaper than market average 16x of 17x. Intermediate target should be somewhere between 15,000 and 2,750. Note the current level. Meralco may be at par with market P/E but, historically, it is a favorite of foreign fund managers. Its current price offers good entry level as it is 10 percent off to 52-week high.

Another stock that you can consider is Megaworld. It is extremely cheaper compared to the other stocks in the PSE index, which are trading way above earnings. Megaworld's P/E ratio is only 8x, which is about half the market average P/E ratio. Historically, this stock is highly volatile but there is no hurry to buy it at current prices. You can accumulate it when it trades at lower range. This is one stock that will outperform strongly when the market returns to bullish mode.

The other stocks in the PSE index are relatively expensive because they are either at par or higher than market average. Of course, it doesn't mean that these stock prices will not rise or that they are not good. It simply means they are relatively expensive and further upside maybe limited as compared to stocks with lower valuations.

There are equally good stocks with promising fundamentals and which offer attractive P/E valuations that are not part of the PSE index. You can research on them for inclusion in your portfolio.

Once you have selected your stocks, you can accumulate slowly. One way to accomplish is to buy stocks regularly for a fixed specified amount regardless of number of shares bought. It can be weekly or monthly. For example, you commit to invest P20,000 monthly and you selected 5 brokers. If Meralco is trading at 101 today you can buy 195 shares for a start. If in the following month, Meralco's share price falls to 95, using the same fixed investment of P20,000, you can buy more with 205 shares. You buy more shares when the share price goes down and buy fewer shares when the price goes up. You will be able to lower your average buying price that can beat the market in the time.

The current sideways market is a good opportunity to accumulate the stocks market trades low. The positive economic forecast for the year should be validated by the results of second quarter earnings next month. Watch out for revaluation as some companies may release lower expected earnings numbers. Moreover, there are dividends, news about new projects and expansion, and analysts' how these will impact their earnings. The higher the expected earnings, the cheaper the valuation and therefore, more upside potential in the stock price.

After the annual quarter earnings results in the next two months, some stocks will be revalued and it is possible many stocks that were previously expensive may become cheaper.

Money Ong is a registered financial planner of *RFP Philippines*. To learn more about creating your own investment portfolio, attend the next *Chartered Stocks Manager (CSM)* program on Aug. 18 Sept. 22. Inquiries: rafp@rfp.ph

PDIC aims to sell ₱60B in acquired assets in 5 years

By Michelle V. Ramos

PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) has about P60 billion worth of acquired physical assets and receivables that it intends to offer for sale within the next five years.

PDIC president Valentin Montoya said investors that selling its acquired assets and loan collectibles starting the year until 2016 was one of the main deposit insurer's priorities.

PDIC takes over both the assets and liabilities of banks that are ordered closed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. It also acquires certain assets of closed banks that cannot pay loans that deposit insurer extends as financial assistance.

Acquired assets are composed of physical properties and receivables, which are mostly in the form of loans extended by closed banks to corporate and individual borrowers.

Data from PDIC showed that of the P69.67 billion worth of assets it acquired, P66.36 billion represented receivables or loans extended by closed banks and existing banks that are indebted to PDIC. The balance represents physical properties.

Montoya said PDIC was bent on coming three years into—and, in, and selling the properties and receivables by the time its mandate would end in 2016. The state-owned firm boost in deposit insurance fund (DIF) and enable it to extend 5 percent of total insured deposits in the country.

Montoya said the latest amount of DIF might be considered comfortable. PDIC wants to hit and then exceed the 5 percent threshold as soon as possible to ensure that public confidence in the country's banking sector is maintained.

Proposals and the government's approval of deposit insurance claims following bank closures was vital in avoiding public distrust in the banking sector.

In the meantime, he said proceeds from the planned sale of these assets would be used both in boosting the DIF and in paying creditors of members' banks that close.

PDIC has recently taken over quite a number of failed banks, mostly rural banks.

In 2011, there were 23 rural banks ordered closed by the central bank and placed under PDIC's receivership. Thrift bank Banco Filipino was also ordered closed last year.

So far this year, there were eight rural banks that were ordered closed. These include Export and Industry Bank, a commercial bank that used to be traded publicly.

PDIC, however, is not looking at selling DIF's assets. It is, instead, looking for potential investors who will inflate more capital into and rehabilitate the bank.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

FLORENCIO "FLONG" N. EMBALSADO

is no longer connected to Isearch International Co. and has an existing warrant of arrest in Crim. Case no. 2012-193 pending before RTC br. 38, Cagayan de Oro City.

REWARD awaiting to those who can lead to his arrest.

You may contact: 0917-7235503; 0917-3144096; 0917-4525532

Pag-IBIG FUND
(Home Development Mutual Fund)

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE THOUSAND SIXTY SEVEN (1,067) UNITS PERSONAL COMPUTERS

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee – Information Technology Resources (BAC-ITR) intends to apply the sum of Thirty Eight Million Eight Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Pesos Pesos (P38,873,490.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to purchase under this contract for the Supply and Delivery of One Thousand Sixty Seven (1,067) Units Personal Computers. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-ITR now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of One Thousand Sixty Seven (1,067) Units Personal Computers. Delivery and installation of the Goods are required for a period of thirty (30) days from the issuance of Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years immediately preceding the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II – Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures, using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and implemented in Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-ITR Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the 18th Floor, Room 1801, Biyaya Services Department, BLP Building, Bonifacio Center, 804 Rizal Boulevard, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City starting June 27, 2012 during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting June 27, 2012 from the Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-ITR Secretariat, 18th Floor, Room 1801, General Services Department, BLP Business Solutions Center, 804 Rizal Boulevard, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Nineteen Thousand Pesos (PhP 20,000.00) in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check payable to Pag-IBIG Fund. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

It may also be downloaded, free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) at www.philgeps.net and the website of the Pag-IBIG Fund at www.pagibigfund.gov.ph, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of bids.

The Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-ITR will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on July 4, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at the 6/F Function Room, Petron MegaPlaza, 358 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bids must be delivered at the Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-ITR Secretariat, 6/F Petron Mandaluyong Function Room, Petron MegaPlaza, 358 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City on or before 01:00 p.m. of July 17, 2012. All bids must be accompanied by a bid Security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on July 17, 2012, 2:00 p.m. at the 6/F Petron Board Room, Petron MegaPlaza, 358 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bid proposals shall be on a Lot basis. Prospective bidders must submit offer to all items listed in the Schedule of Prices. "NO BID" submitted in any of the items shall result in bid for the whole lot.

The Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-ITR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Marcos Tatlonghari Jr. Phone or Jose Mario M. Sison at (02) 724-4244 to 47 and local Corporate Director.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

PAL gets new Boeing 777 passenger jet

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PLDT carrier Philippine Airlines has taken delivery of its newest Boeing 777-300 passenger jet, bringing its fleet of flagship long-range aircraft to three.

However, a dark cloud still hangs over the company, now controlled by conglomerate Metro Pacific Corp., given the country's category 2 status with the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which prohibits local carriers from expanding their American operations.

PAL's brand new Boeing 777-300 ER aircraft arrives in Manila from the US plane maker's plant in Seattle, Washington," the company said on its website.

"The third B777 to PAL's wide body fleet, the new plane will immediately go into service across the Pacific and Australia, its first assignment," the company said.

PAL said the new plane would be flighted first to flights to Australia. If and when the country regains its category 1 status with the FAA, the plane would immediately be transferred to US flights.

The Boeing 777 planes are significantly more efficient than PAL's fleet of Boeing 747 jumbo jets. Using the new planes would allow PAL to make more money from its US flights, which are among the most profitable in its network.

PHILIPPINE Airlines' brand new Boeing 777-300ER aircraft arrives in Manila from the US plane maker's plant in Seattle, Washington. The third B777 in PAL's wide body fleet, the new plane will immediately go into service across the Pacific and Australia, its first assignment. Photo shows Capt. Alejandro Campos (left), PAL SVP for flight operations, and Konrad Augusto Gaiser, PAL EVP for operations and chief operating officer Gary Throughbred's right), field service manager of Boeing Company during simple blending trim at the new 8,186 hangar of Lufthansa Technik Philippines in Pasay City.

The plane was officially received by PAL vice president for operations Ismael Augusto Gaiser in a ceremony with Boeing field service manager Gary Throughbred at the Lufthansa Technik Philippines facility in Pasay.

Shedding old skin

ONE of the country's biggest insurance firms, Philam Life, recently executed a bold rebranding strategy meant to revitalize the brand ... and put some distance between the local insurer and the embarrassing financial debacle that afflicted its parent firm a couple of years ago.

Instead of the old blue logo, Philam Life now sports a bright red one—using the same lobster type—so as aligned with the corporate colors of its new parent firm, Hong Kong-based AIA Group.

AIA was formerly a unit of AIG, until the latter spun off the former last year to raise cash to repay its US government bailout.

According to our sources, the rebranding—or new signages for Philam's branches nationwide is now often stationary—was a cool P50 million in small price to pay, of course, for the benefits of revitalizing one's business).

The entire effort to distance Philam from AIG is made easier by the fact that its former head honcho, Jose Guisio Jr., is now Philippine ambassador to Washington. Given his close friendship with former AIG boss Hank Greenberg, putting ways with the US money would have been a bit difficult and awkward. [MARIA L. LAGOS]

Subic accident

FORMER PGMC Investor-president Antonio Tan passed away last weekend after he drowned in Zambales.

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

According to word that reached Biz Buzz, Tan and his friend were trying out a new yacht last Saturday in Subic and decided to visit Grande Island, just at the mouth of the bay. They anchored the boat off the island and jumped into the water to swim to the shore but soon found themselves overpowered by the strong undertow that sucked them out to sea.

Despite being "very fit" and a "good swimmer"—as attested to by his good friends, who invariably described him as a "nice guy"— Tan was apparently overcome by the current. Only his friend made it to the island and the banker was later found with a very weak pulse. Tan expired soon after.

Tan resigned from the brokerage firm about two months ago amid troubles concerning the supposedly rogue trades executed by the firm's rainmaker (who has since made herself scarce). According to his friends, Tan was advised early this year by a prominent to "stay away from old water." [ROBERT L. LOCSIN]

Boys with big toys

THE SONS of American tycoon Donald Trump Jr.—Donald Jr. and Eric, who are in town for a brief visit, specifically for the ground-breaking of Trump Tower Manila and a mocked mission for "Operation Smile"—were asked during a briefing yesterday about the best part of working in real estate.

"We get to be boys that play with big toys," said Donald Jr. "We get to build stuff. We didn't have conventional childhood playing ball or football in the backyard; such are farther, his dad, Fred Trump, was in real estate, building cities, in negotiations." What's special for him, Donald said, was the "tangible" nature of real estate—building something creative that is permanent. "In finance, you pull some numbers out of thin air to buy and the banker was later found with a very weak pulse. You expired soon after.

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Buys with big toys

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Operation Smile

LEGENDS past of the interviews of the younger Trumps is tied to the medical mission of "Operation Smile," a global children's charity organization that helps treat facial deformities such as cleft lips and cleft palates. As the younger Trumps and local partner Ayalalans are actively involved in this organization, the Century Property Group has committed to donate to the Philippine chapter of "Operation Smile" P50,000 for every unit of the plush Trump Tower Manila sold at a cocktail event scheduled last night that was to be graced by the Trump brothers. [DORIS C. BONOAN]

Get business alerts and a preview of Biz Buzz the evening before it comes out. Text ON (SG) BUSINESS to 4467 (P5.50/alert).

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MUSTARD SEED

Imports down 13.7% in April

Other top imports for April were fuels and related materials ($1.26 billion, down 24.3 percent), industrial machinery and equipment ($956.47 million, up 9.3 percent), transport equipment ($220.08 million, up 22.6 percent), and plastics ($116.55 million, up 1.8 percent), WSJ said.

Rounding up the list of the top 10 imports for April were organized iron and steel ($113.87 million), telecommunications equipment and electrical machinery ($107.74 million), organic and inorganic chemicals ($1.67.56 million), cereals ($102.39 million) and animal feeds ($79.52 million).

The United States was the top source of imports for the Philippines in April with $567.09 million, but this was 0.6 percent down from $609.43 million a year ago. The other top sources of imports were Japan ($539.05 million, up 22.5 percent), China ($427.68 million, down 8.6 percent), Singapore ($420.86 million, down 8.7 percent), and Taiwan ($400.23 million, down 11.8 percent).

Globe Telecom cited among Southeast Asia's top companies for 2nd straight year

Leading telecommunications company Globe Telecom was again recognized by institutional investment publication Alpha Southeast Asia as one of the region's top companies due to its strong Investor Relations Support and Dividend Policy.

Globe is one of the three top choices for the following categories: (1) Best in Senior Management IR Support, and (2) Most Consistent Dividend Policy. The second front-runner Investor Corporate awarding ceremonies organized by Alpha Southeast Asia will take place next month.

"Globe Telecom remains one of the most attractive companies on the radar of most buy-side investors and analysts today and therefore, we too are pleased to see the company scored well among investors in our unique investor poll for the second year running," said Ricky Bonoan, publisher of Alpha Southeast Asia.

Ernest L. Cu, Globe President and CEO was pleased with the recognition accorded to it by Alpha Southeast Asia. "We at Globe are committed to high standards of disclosure, transparency and accountability. We take pride in the company's consistent performance over the years and rewarding shareholder value," he said.

For the annual poll, votes were collected from more than 440 investors and analysts across the region, of which 46% from last year's figure of 450. The participants included fund managers with investment interests in Southeast Asia, large institutional investors, insurance companies, pension funds, funds of hedge funds, private banks, equity and fixed income brokers as well as buy-and-sell analysts.

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HYUNDAI EON IN MOTION: EXPERIENCE A NEW FORM OF MOBILITY AND STYLE

One in the direction of every eye on the road with a drive that is a complete standout in form and style. The new Hyundai EON is the latest offering from Hyundai. With its sleek Fluidic design and fuel efficient drive, the five-door sub-compact hatchback fits the young and hip lifestyle. The EON takes the high road as HMR ties up with RCBC Savings Bank (RSB) to bring the EON nationwide.

LIV EON: A FOR-HEARABLE PARTNERSHIP: HMR TIES UP WITH RCBC SAVINGS BANK

Take your drive to a whole new level as HMR and RCBC Savings Bank team up to get you closer to the new Hyundai EON offering you no-hassle deals that can only come from this for-midable partnership. RCBC Savings Bank is a fully owned subsidiary of RCBC Unibank, a member of the Yuchengco Group of Companies.

With the value-adding partnership with RCBC Savings Bank—the third largest thrift bank in the Philippines—HMR brings the EON closer to the Filipinos. "Our strong partnership with RCBC Savings Bank brings us closer in providing a way for you to experience a new kind of mobility," says HMR President and CEO, Mr. Ma. Fe Perez-Aquino.

MOV EON 2 TO A BRILLIANT DRIVE

Own a new kind of sub-compact hatchback that is a testament to European-inspired design. The EON is a testament of striking and function with its exceptional drive and personality, ideal for quality city driving and lifestyle. Enjoy the fluidity of its motion as the affordable and no-frills economy car moves with confidence with its fuel efficiency and exceptional engine performance in its class.

Prepared to go beyond the basic and get out to be a truly trendy car, the EON gives you the privilege to enjoy a new kind of ride that ensures you to places. Rev up to your full speed lifestyle, drives you to the top of your game, and grooves to your life's beat and rhythm.

LIV EON 3 WITH EON IN MOTION

Dubbed as EON in Motion, catch the EON from June 11 to August 30, 2012 as it goes around the country where you can experience its trendy and confident drive. Happening in three phases, the HMR-RCBC partnership will take the EON nationwide on a mall, bank and dealership display. Be there as the first lap of EON in Motion takes the EON on a nationwide mall display. The second phase takes the EON to RCBC Bank and RCBC Savings Bank branches through a road show all over the country where clients can witness the themselves the youthful vibe of the new EON. And finally, witness the EON in Motion at your nearest Hyundai dealership as an event where you can bring the whole family to enjoy a day of fun and youthful freedom each like the EON. EON in Motion is our way to bring the Hyundai lifestyle to you, to our customers, and to all Filipinos.

GROOV EON 4 WITH THE EON'S FUN AND YOUTHFUL VIBE

Experience the EON in Motion nationwide! Visit any of the mall displays of the new Hyundai EON from June 11 to July 11 and inquire about the new EON which can give you a chance to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab during the raffle draw on August 15, 2012.

Spot the Hyundai EON, whether at the mall display, RCBC Bank or RCBC Savings Bank display, Hyundai dealership display, and even on the road! Take a photo of the Hyundai EON and submit your entry with your name, address and phone number to customercare@hyundai-asia.com. Deadline of entries is on August 30, 2012. The most creative photo wins an Apple iPad 2.

Catch the fun and quirky Hyundai EON in Motion at your favorite malls nationwide on those dates and venues!

MALL	SCHEDULE	LOCATION
SM Trellis	June 21 – July 1	Open Ground Floor - Center Area
SM Cebu	June 25 – July 1	[illegible]
SM Batangas	June 25 – July 1	Ground Floor, [illegible]
Robinsons Galleria	June 25 – July 1	[illegible]
Robinsons Easton	June 25 – July 1	Ground Floor near [illegible]
Las Piñas	June 28 – July 1	Atrium
Bonifacio Carriage	June 27 – July 1	In front of Robinsons Supermarket
SM Mega Mall – Building	June 28 – July 1	[illegible]
Pacific Mall Lipa	June 28 – July 1	Ground Floor, Atrium
Robinsons Iloilo	June 28 – July 8	Atrium wing, Ground Robinsons Supermarket Main
SM North EDSA	July 5 – 11	[illegible]
Vista Mall	July 5 – 11	Unit G-5 Main Lobby

HYUNDAI NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.

EON IN MOTION

Exceptional in Form, a Standout in Style

Promo period is from June 1 to August 31, 2012

DRIVEON — Own a Hyundai EON for as low as P65,700.00*

LIVEON — Enjoy as much as P[illegible].00 savings

MOVEON — Relax with as low as [illegible] monthly amortization

GROOVEON — Bring home an exciting Hyundai Freebie!

FREE
- 1-year Comprehensive Insurance
- 3-year LTO Registration
- Chattel Mortgage Fee
- PMS (Parts and Labor) up to 15,000 km
- Tint, Floor Mats and Seat Cover

* For EON GLS, MT with 15% down payment, subject to bank approval
** For EON GLS, MT with 10% down payment, 60 months to pay, subject to bank approval
Per DTI-FEB Permit No. 3750. Series of 2012

HYUNDAI and RCBC Savings Bank

www.hyundai.com/ph/en

See flyers for more details

BUSINESS

Mobile Alert: Text INQ SUB/UNSUB to 4467 | Website: www.inquirer.net/business | E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph | Text to your landline: Inquirer to open/quit/by message to 4467

Malampaya shutdown to hike Luzon rates

By Kira T. Olchondra

DOE urges public to use energy saving measures

THE SCHEDULED shutdown of the Malampaya natural gas field in mid-July would cha ngke power situation in Luzon many would to higher power rates for Luzon-based consumers come Inc, part, a Department of Energy (DOE) official said.

In statements released by DOE as an update on the power situation, Undersecretary Jonathan Dexter Antiporda said, "The [all-limited] billing period will come in the August bills of consumers. Actually, once with oil prices coming down, we have to remember that oil prices are based on a comparison with other indicators it's more expensive than coal, natural gas, geothermal, etc. to produce. And its a part through account. There is already a methodology for that the ERC [Energy Regulatory Commission] allows for."

The scheduled shutdown of the Malampaya pipeline from July 15 to 23 would force three power-generation plants using natural gas to use more expensive fuel, Antiporda said. Those are the natural gas power plants in Sta. Rita, San Lorenzo, and Ilijan, all in Batangas province.

"The situation is expected to result in higher generation costs, which would be passed on to consumers, she said.

Recently, several power plants shut down, either due to emergencies or scheduled maintenance. However, the emergency shutdowns of plants are not yet seen to affect pricing since reserves have not been tapped, Antiporda said.

Asida said it is more likely for power plants to seek alternatives next month when Malampaya shuts down. "That is nine days and that is when our three plants, amounting for 2,700 megawatts (MW) of power will be using alternative power, which is more expensive than coal and gas which they are using right now," Asida said.

Users should, thus, monitor their consumption despite the impending power supply in Luzon, Asida said.

"Normally we switch off our electricity at 12 noon. But we actually need to start updating the peak hours. Around 10 a.m. that is the peak for energy use, say in offices, more everything is there like computers that are not used but are on standby. We can also adjust the aircon thermostat, [for example] to 22 instead of 18. Actually, be conscious that that is our peak hours [," she said.

Asida said the power supply situation is "alleviating a bit" and that some of the power plants that were offline before are now online again, but not all may run at optimal capacities.

MORE AND MORE HOSPITALS TURN TO BPI LEASING FOR GROWTH

BPI Leasing works with hospitals to realize timely equipment upgrade and expansion.

Healthcare is an essential part of our daily lives. This is the reason why hospitals strive to give patients the best treatment options, using the best equipment available. Upgrading equipment, however, can be financially straining. But two hospitals have managed to transform their small facilities into a much larger and more modern setup.

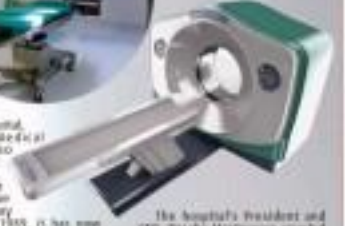
From a small 14-bed maternity clinic in 1958, St. Jude Hospital has evolved into a state-of-the-art teaching hospital, thanks to its steady partnership with BPI Leasing. Today, the hospital boasts of a full range of healthcare services, from pediatrics to surgery, and looks forward to more expansion in the future.

According to Dr. Evangeline Alfonso del Rosario, President and CEO of St. Jude Hospital, *"BPI Leasing helped us evolve into a full-service teaching hospital with state-of-the-art diagnostic and medical equipment by giving us the opportunity to acquire the needed medical equipment with a very low cash outlay and without the necessary chattel mortgage that comes with a loan."*

Dr. Evangeline Del Rosario, President and CEO, St. Jude Hospital

Jose Jo Aviso, President and CEO, CMC

Rosalio Montenegro, President and CEO, MMG



Another hospital, Colombia Medical Center, also benefited from BPI Leasing. From a 25-bed, one level secondary hospital in 1989, it has now evolved into a 122-bed tertiary hospital.

Hospital President and CEO, Mr. Jose Jo Aviso, states, *"Colombia Medical Center is now the leading full-service hospital in Colombo. Thanks to BPI Leasing, we were able to upgrade a lot of our equipment and facilities in the hospital by entering into a term lease for upgraded models that got us at par with previous hospitals in the metropolis."*

And then there's the Makati Medical Center. In 2005, the hospital decided to expand by adding a second building and, at the last minute, an auditorium at the top floor. The problem, however, was that installing air-conditioning there from the basement to the auditorium wasn't part of the original premises. The solution was to use roof-installed take powered air-conditioning system. Budget was an issue because new and green technology can be expensive.

The hospital's President and CEO, Rosalio Montenegro reached out to leasing. *"Leasing was the way to go because we could get beneficial use of the asset early on,"* she relates, in choosing which company to lease from, Montenegro already had one in mind. *"With BPI Leasing, we were able to invest in green technology for our new building without disrupting our cash flow for the construction. We were able to acquire our solar-powered air-conditioning units instantly with a small initial cash outlay and longer payment terms."*

Expanded healthcare services can be part of your transaction goals too. Make it a reality today. Lease with the leader - BPI Leasing.

BPI Leasing Corporation
The Leader in Leasing

You too can be our next success story.
Take the lead in your business today with the BPI Leasing advantage!
Call us at 845-5436, 816-9124 or 816-9241 or email us at BPI_CustomerService@bpi.com.ph

VOLVO'S HIGH FIVES

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YEARS WARRANTY
YEARS ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

C30 S40 S60 S80 V60 XC60 XC90

DRIVE HOME YOUR FAVORITE VOLVO TODAY FOR AS LOW AS [illegible] MONTHLY AMORTIZATION

VOLVO AUTHORIZED DEALERS
Volvo Makati
Volvo Cebu

VOLVO FINANCE PARTNERS
Volvo Autoloan
Volvo Easybuy
Volvo Delta

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PERSONAL

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HOUSEHOLD

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

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3 Storey House
Corner Lot, Fully Furnished
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CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

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32 Sanlan St., Barangay Fortuna, Marikina (C/o Albay mag 47, D-8) inside a 6,500 sq.m. compound

strongly constructed 500 sq.m. warehouse with existing partitions

Contact 0917-0.654628
and landline 6210155
Mr. Yao Carlos

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Certificate No. 215 for 1851 shares issued in the name of Hagonoy Finance & Investment Co., Inc., and Stock Certificate No. 13 for one share, are LOST by their Company, both in the name of Renato L. Lim, all issued by the Lahug Trade Hub, Inc., were reported lost. If the content is received within one year, new certificates will be issued.
(PSN – June 20, 27 & July 4, 2012)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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Hermes
Tiffany
Omega
Breitling
Tag Heuer
Panerai
Iwc
Jaeger Lecoultre
Patek Philippe
Audemars Piguet
Vacheron Constantin
Richard Mille
Bvlgari
Dior
Prada
Fendi
Celine
Balenciaga
Givenchy
Saint Laurent
Miu Miu
Valentino
Alexander Mcqueen
Burberry
Dolce & Gabbana
Versace
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Boss
Armani
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Kate Spade
Tory Burch
Marc Jacobs
Longchamp
Mulberry
Bottega Veneta
Loewe
Jimmy Choo
Manolo Blahnik
Christian Louboutin
Stuart Weitzman
Aldo
Steve Madden
Call / Text / Viber
0915 4012 888
0915 4012 889
0915 4012 890
Kelle

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that the owner of the car with Plate No. XXX 000 and MV File No. 0000000000 has lost the original Certificate of Registration bearing the said MV File No. and Plate No. issued by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in the name of Hernando L. Dizon.
Hernando L. Dizon
Owner

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED: 1 MALE, 1 FEMALE
Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management
Fresh graduate are welcome to apply
Age: 18 to 25 years old
Height: 5'4" and above
Weight: proportionate to height
Apply in person at Bistro Rendezvous
Ground Floor, Tower 1, Rockwell Business Center
Sheridan St. cor. Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 0917-8123456

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MS. SHIRLEY BARCELO

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT MS. SHIRLEY BARCELO IS NOT AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY. ALL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY HER ARE NOT BINDING ON THE COMPANY.
(PSN – June 27, 2012)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MS. MA. ANNIE E. REYES

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT MS. MA. ANNIE E. REYES IS NOT AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY. ALL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY HER ARE NOT BINDING ON THE COMPANY.
(PSN – June 27, 2012)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MS. RAMI SAMPOLE

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT MS. RAMI SAMPOLE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY. ALL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY HER ARE NOT BINDING ON THE COMPANY.
(PSN – June 27, 2012)

CALLING ALL MENZI NPRT SCHOLARS

The **Menzi Trust Fund, Inc.** is updating the directory of its MPRT scholar-graduates. Please e-mail to mabesamis@menzi.ph or send by mail to Menzi Trust Fund, Inc., 20/F Security Bank Centre 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, the following information —

Name (Surname, First Name, Middle Name)
Name of institution where you graduated
Degree/Year Graduated
Present Office & Position/Designation
Address & Telephone No.
Home/Permanent Address
Telephone No. - Landline and/or Cellphone
Awards/Citations (if any)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Capital Complex
2/F DOLE Building, SM Malagana #2, Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
OPEN PACIFIC CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES INC Unit 10-12/F Lim Ke Hing, 700 Tabora Ave., Bel Air Village, Makati City	Hiroo Ayu Aoki Japanese	Sales Manager
TAISEI PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTION INC 2/F Equitable Bank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Tadahiro Fukushima Japanese	Manager
ESTHERLANE GLOBAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC 12/F Philippine Corporate Center, North Triangle Drive, Bonifacio Global City, City, Taguig City	Hitesh Kumar Malhotra Indian	Director - APO
ESTHERLANE GLOBAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC 12/F Philippine Corporate Center, North Triangle Drive, Bonifacio Global City, City, Taguig City	Zongheng Lee Korean	Senior Program Manager
SM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC 17/F Kuningan Tower, ADB Ave. cor. Poveda St., Makati City	Kam Seen Ishida Singaporean	Integral Banking Solutions Head
SUMITOMO (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION Room 804-805 One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Ave. (Formerly Paseo de Roxas) Avenue, Makati City	Takayuki Mori Japanese	Vice President for Electrical Construction
ONE EVER PHILIPPINES, INC No. 1107 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila	Kimiko Kikkawa Indonesian	Female Chief Director
UNICOP PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 1404-1407 GSP Realtimes Summit Center 2705 Radio Ave., Makati City	Cris Kinoshita Japanese	Japanese Customer Support
HEARTSTRONG PHILIPPINES, INC 10/F Cybergate Plaza, Sec. 30 Pioneer cor. Orense Street, Makati City	Yoshiki Higashitani Japanese	Product Manager (Level 2 Grade 3)
KAIZEN PEOPLE SUPPORT, INC. Asian Development Center, Bonifacio cor. Ave., 5th Floor, Makati City	Ashwinder Bhasin Indian	Manager, Business Analytics
KARAKURA INTERNATIONAL (PH), INC. 4580-1, Ayala Ave., Yakal Place, Las Piñas City	Joshua Chan Wee Seng Singaporean	Managing Director
PEI TOURS CORP. 28F Rockwell Bldg., Hidalgo Drive, Pasay City	Jeannine Kung Korean	Tour Coordinator
AUSTEMS FURTHER EAST GLOBAL SCHOOL INC. 2/F One Legend Place, Don Jesus Avenue, Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City	Wenhao Lee Korean	Part-time Manager for Korean Clients
BENGUET SYSTEM PHILIPPINES INC. 10/F Solaris One Bldg., #33 Don Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Robert James Mendiola British	Senior Developer Lead
FUSION BPO SERVICES PHILS. INC. 4/F Alphaland Makati Tower, 1 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Vineet Pannu Indian	Country Manager
MERCK SHARP & DOHME (I.A.) CORP. 33/F Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Sanjiv Ram Mahajan Indian	Managing Director - Philippines
ICANGOLD TECHNOLOGY, INC. Unit I, Woody Bldg., 2/F Serrano St., Bo. Kalawaan, Quezon City	Ming Tao Wang British	Financial Analyst
MAPUA-ANSEI LAFE LABORATORIES AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER INC. 17/F Land Bldg., 1000 EDSA Kamuning, Quezon City	Hideki Obana Japanese	Principal
INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA 14/F Equitable Bank Plaza, Paseo de Roxas Ave., cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Gordon Thomas Daly American	Chief Executive Officer & Country Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN S. BACARRO, CESO III
Regional Director

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

PNOC

INVITATION TO BID

Project Name	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Source of Funds	Contract Duration	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Bids
Standard Shell Tanks Fixed Roof Vertical with a Capacity of 5 Barrels & Accessories for Terminal Facility					
Project Site					

Interested bidders may obtain information, secure list of bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). Bidding documents are available from June 28, 2012 to July 11, 2012 during office hours (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM).

PNOC-EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders on the grounds for purposes action.

(Sgd.) BONG NICOLAS T. ROXAS
General Manager
(PSN – June 27, 2012)

BOHOL I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Cabulijan, Tagbilaran, Bohol
Tele-fax: (038) 500-8892, Tel. No. (038) 500-8151, 500-8156

INVITATION FOR BIDS NO. 2012-03

The BOHOL I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BOHECO I) through CAPEX fund intends to procure various electrical materials and equipment to be used in our coverage area.

- Lot 1 – Pole Line Hardware
- Lot 1A – Wire Clamps
- Lot 2 – Wire and Conductor, Made in Philippines
- Lot 3 – Connector Compression, Made in U.S.A.
- Lot 4 – Fuse cutout, Arrester, Insulator clamp, Bale Clamp, U.S.A.
- Lot 5 – Fuse Link, removable type, Made in U.S.A.
- Lot 6 – Insulator, Polymer, Made in U.S.A. or equivalent
- Lot 7 – Electronic KWHR Meter, 1-phase, 1.5 (3)Kw, 240 V, 60 Hz, Polyphase/watts
- Lot 8 – Distribution Transformer, 25kVa 1.2/0.24kV, brand new
- LOT 9 – INSTANT Tool and Connector, ITS WEDJOB
- LOT 10 – OIL SWITCH, 100V, 200A, 14kV, Refurbished

Note: No imported items

a) Only those manufacturers importing, distributor from manufacturer are qualified to participate in the bidding and they must submit "Certificate of Origin".

Sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the above-mentioned materials shall be received by BOHECO-I at its main office in Cabulijan, Tagbilaran City on or before July 11, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. at which time and place the said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their representatives.

Interested bidders may obtain information, secure list of bidding documents from BAC/SEC-I Main Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). Bidding documents are available from June 28, 2012 to July 11, 2012 during office hours (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM).

BOHECO-I reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders on the grounds for purchasers action.

(Sgd.) BONG NICOLAS T. ROXAS
General Manager
(PSN – June 27, 2012)

City Government of Tandag
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Tandag, Surigao del Sur

INVITATION TO BID

Name of Project	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Source of Funds	Contract Duration	Date of Pre-Bid Conference (if applicable)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

(PSN – June 27, 2012)

The Philippine Association of Real Estate Boards, Inc. (PAREB) in cooperation with the City of Tagaytay Real Estate Board chapter fielded 14 participants for the recently conducted Real Estate Brokerage course by the PNC Institute March 26-31. The course qualifications of PAREB-City of Tagaytay Real Estate Board placed the chapter 1st overall nationwide among other PAREB chapters. City of Tagaytay Real Estate Board (CTREB) with its 69 members is led by its President Rene Jones Castillo featured here standing on the back row right most. Featured as well is Past President Antonio Rosaling standing on the back row 3rd from left.

TOMAS PO ATIENZA

October 28, 1938 – June 23, 2012
of Catalunia City

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 73.

His loving wife Benita;
children Raymund B. Mary Ann, Leonardo & Agnes;
Thelma,
Nathan Luke & Carmella,
Plasty & Jerry Ec;
grandchildren: Emillionne, & Haley Mae,
Lance Thomas, Liam Ethan & Lyle Dominic,
Kayla Brittany & Kyle Nathan,
Gianna Paige & Gaelle Phoebe
request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Chapel, Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, June 29, 2012 at The Heritage Park, Bajurel Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Christ the King, Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Arrears of Condolence

LADY ESTER PASCUAL GOZON, M.D.

Papal Awardee, Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice

She was preceded in death by her husband, Sir Haroldo S. Gozon, M.D. (†) and son Noel P. Gozon (†).
She is survived by her loving daughters and sons-in-law:
Lolet and Joey Mendoza, Marivic and Alex Guevara, Lita and Tony Francisco, Margot and Jay Bautista, Tina Gozon,
Grandchildren: Frances, Kenneth, Justine, Nikki, Jake, Martin, Kate, Matthew, Cherrie, Lance, Jacq and Kirsten.

Her family, relatives and friends deeply mourn her demise and request the prime readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 2, La Funeraria Paz, La Loma Parks Complex, C-3 Road, Grace Park, Caloocan City.

On June 28, Thursday, at 10:00 AM, her wake will be moved to St. Peter and John Parish, Tierra, Malabon City, where the devoted more than three decades of service to the parish community, especially for the poor.

On the same day, interment will be after the 1:00 PM Funeral Mass at the Parish Church, then will proceed to the Gozon Family Mausoleum at the Tugatog Cemetery, Malabon City.

CLASSIFIEDS
For those who held your hand, Who cried with you, or sulfered you, For those who gave their prayers ...
Send your message of thanks.
Call us, Inquirer Classifieds
Head Office: 891-6425 (Sabine), 893-4427, 891-88-00 loc. 314, 316, 891-6425
Cubao: 421-1420, 421-2032
Makati: 893-2270, 811-4822, 811-4261
Manila: 523-8558 loc. 110 or 116, 528-0211
Binan: 501-3442, 539-4830, 693-3961 (Telefax)
INQUIRER

Death Notice

Our Beloved
Mariana (May Mimay) E. Bolotio
of Talisay, San Jose, Concepcion Tarlac
died on June 15, 2012 at the age of 95
Her body lies in state at Santuaryo, Antipolo City, Quezon City.
Interment date will be announced later.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

CLASSIFIEDS

ZAMECO II

Zambales II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Wawandue, Castillejos, Zambales
Tel. No. (047) 611-0341 Telefax (047) 611-0411

INVITATION TO BID 12-04

Zambales II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMECO II) is inviting interested bidders with a Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) licensed contractors firms and cooperatives to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals with Approved Budget Contract (ABC) amounting to ₱29,000,000.00 for the following subject project:

EXPANSION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LINE SPT.

No.	TRANSACTIONS	SUBSTATION	MUNICIPALITY
1	Wawandue	Wawandue	Castillejos
2	Tabacuhan Subdivision	Poblacion	San Marcelino
3	Barangay	Botolan	San Antonio
4	Pundaquitan	San Antonio	San Narciso
5	Mauzon	Pundaquit	San Narciso
6	Calapacuan	Subic Proper	San Felipe
7	Maloma	San Narciso	Subic

	ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
1.	Publication of Invitation to Bid	JUNE 23 & JUNE 27, 2012
2.	Issuance of Bid Documents	JUNE 26 – JULY 9, 2012 @ 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
3.	Scheduled Pre-Bid Conference a. Deadline of submission of bid proposal b. Opening of Bids	JULY 10, 2012 @ 2:00 PM JULY 10, 2012 @ 2:00 PM JULY 10, 2012 @ 2:01 PM
4.	Evaluation of Technical Working Group	JULY 10 – 16, 2012
5.	Confirmation of Bidders' Bids	JULY 17 & 18, 2012
6.	Submission of Recommendation to General Manager	JULY 19, 2012
7.	Notice of Award / Letter of Acceptance informing the Result of the Bidding	AUGUST 6, 2012
8.	Notice to Proceed	AUGUST 13, 2012
9.	Start of Contract	AUGUST 14, 2012

Eligibility and Bid Documents will be available at the ZAMECO II Main Office at Brgy. Wawandue, Castillejos, Zambales upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) addressed to the BAC Chairperson and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos(₱5,000.00).

ZAMECO II assumes no responsibility whatsoever to cooperatives or interested bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

A bid bond submitted must be accompanied by a cashier's/manager's check or a call deposit of five percent (5%) of the bid price.

ZAMECO II hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the Cooperative.

BAC COMMITTEE

(PI) June 27, 2012

ZAMECO II

Zambales II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Wawandue, Castillejos, Zambales
Tel. No. (047) 611-0341 Telefax (047) 611-0411

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ZAMECO II through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), wishes to invite all prospective and interested third party owner of contractor and consultant organization or engineering consulting agency within the region, preferably operating with field offices located in Zambales, Olongapo City and Bataan areas to apply for eligibility and to bid for the contract to satisfactorily complete for the new 69 kVA Single-Fed Substation, at ZAMECO II with Approved Budget Contract amounting to Php40,000.00 per month.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

	ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
1.	Publication of Invitation to Bid	JUNE 23 & JUNE 27, 2012
2.	Issuance of Bid Documents	JUNE 26 – JULY 9, 2012 @ 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
3.	Scheduled Pre-Bid Conference a. Deadline of submission of bid proposal b. Opening of Bids	JULY 10, 2012 @ 2:00 PM JULY 10, 2012 @ 2:00 PM JULY 10, 2012 @ 2:01 PM
4.	Evaluation of Technical Working Group	JULY 10 – 16, 2012
5.	Confirmation of Bidders' Bids	JULY 17 & 18, 2012
6.	Submission of Recommendation to General Manager	JULY 19, 2012
7.	Notice of Award / Letter of Acceptance informing the Result of the Bidding	AUGUST 6, 2012
8.	Notice to Proceed	AUGUST 13, 2012
9.	Start of Contract	AUGUST 14, 2012

Eligibility and Bid Documents will be available at the ZAMECO II Main Office at Brgy. Wawandue, Castillejos, Zambales upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) addressed to the BAC Chairperson and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos(₱5,000.00).

ZAMECO II assumes no responsibility whatsoever to cooperatives or interested bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

A bid bond submitted must be accompanied by a cashier's/manager's check or a call deposit of five percent (5%) of the bid price.

ZAMECO II hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the Cooperative.

Should you need further information regarding the notice, please get in touch with Mr. Richard M. Gozang or Ms. Nikka C. Gregorio at Satellite II Office at telephone nos. (047) 611-0341/0342 local 103 and 117.

BAC COMMITTEE

(PI) June 27, 2012

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Navy supports climate change adaptation program, empowers local communities

LEGAZPI CITY – BOTTLENECKS might are now more frequent bringing longer periods of discomfort and thought to some sense in the world. However to the fishers, farmers and industry of tropical sencha are also being supplemented. The gradual and irreversible change of ultimate undesirably poses great threats to people all over the globe.

Considered by all, as a close and present danger to human security, engineer wanted in climate change are not only from the government and civil-societal groups but require participation by all to adapt and mitigate its impact.

Rear Admiral Alexander P. Pama AFP, Flag Officer in Command, Philippine Navy in his Command Guidance 2012 said, "The effects of climate change can no longer be ignored. The calamities that struck our nation recently made us realize the needs to equip us with proper knowledge, skills and attitude to help us counteract."

Apart from developing capabilities to respond to disasters, the Navy has also embarked on advocacy programs such as the seminar workshop conducted today at Naval Station Julkanan Arevalo in Legazpi City dubbed as "Climate Change Adaptation Advocacy Solar Bottle Light Project and Ecological Solid Waste Management" attended by barangay officials and volunteers from Barangays Bonbon, Legazpi City and Barangay Bonga, Bacacay, Albay.

The three-day seminar was made to enrich awareness and provide appropriate knowledge, skills and attitude to the participants towards disaster preparedness and environmental preservations.

"I hope that this seminar had provided you with a better appreciation on the key issues and concerns surrounding Climate Change Adaptation. I am certain that the outcome of this seminar will help bridge the gap between the people and our Mother Earth in saving our environment to prevent and minimize disasters" said Cdr. Romeo L. Garcia (PN ret.), the Chief of Staff, Naval Force Southern Luzon.

The activity was spearheaded by Naval Force Southern Luzon through the initiative of Philippine Navy Civil Military Operations Group in partnership with multi-flex Innovation and Management Exposure INC and local government units.

"It's nice knowing that the Navy are in full support with the programs of Government of Albay in cutting by with the activities here in Island and in Manila" said Mrs. Evangeline E. Bernabal, resident of Barangay Arimbay, Legazpi City, Albay.

"Kaya sana mabawas ang nasasunog ngayon sa ating daigdig kung may mga nagiging aktibidad sa pagbabawas. Marami pagkakapon sating mga workshop, magandang mga pamamaraan ang pagbabawas dito sa ating mga kabarangay" said Commodore Abraham P. Ortiz AFP, Commander, Naval Forces Southern Luzon in his speech during opening remarks.

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St. Luke's opens dedicated heart unit for women

According to the Department of Health (DOH), heart disease is the number one cause of female deaths in the Philippines, with vascular disease ranked second. This makes women in the country today most likely to die of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) than other common illnesses such as diabetes, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. Meanwhile, the American Heart Association (AHA) also says that coronary heart disease is the number one single killer of women aged over 25.

Unfortunately, this reality is not widely known to many women as reported by "Project EKK: Evaluation of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Filipino Women on Cardiovascular Disease and Risk Factors in Metro Manila (Reyes, et. al.)," a study conducted under the Council on Women's Cardiovascular Health of the Philippine Heart Association (PHA). According to the study, most women in the Philippines think they will most likely die of cancer than of cardiovascular disease. This is not so different from AHA findings that only 13% of women view heart disease as a health threat.

In order to help raise awareness and reduce cardiovascular risk among women in the Philippines, the Heart Institute of St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City (SLMC-GC) recently opened a unit dedicated to women and heart disease. The Women's Heart Health Unit (WHHU) serves as a unique venue for women to seek and receive education and information about cardiovascular risks, as well as avail of CV risk assessment and consults.

The WHHU is manned six days a week by 23 top female cardiologists who are professionally trained in various subspecialties in cardiology including vascular medicine, electrophysiology, cardiac intensive care, cardiovascular rehabilitation, and echocardiography, among others. It is headed by interventist/cardiologist Dr. Maria Adelaida M. Iboleon-Dy who is also a member of the Council on Women's Cardiovascular Health of the PHA.

"Women present symptoms of CVD differently from the way men do. It is important for women to recognize their cardiovascular risk profile and get treatment quickly at the first sign of distress," says Dr. Iboleon-Dy. "At WHHU, we will help women determine if they are at risk of a heart attack or coronary artery disease. Because of their busy lifestyles, they may tend to ignore certain symptoms which may include unusual fatigue, inability to sleep, shortness of breath, indigestion and anxiety, which may be vague manifestations of an underlying coronary problem. When it comes to health, they usually prioritize the needs of their loved ones before their own. We are here to help them understand these symptoms better and provide treatment as early as possible," she adds.

Additionally, WHHU will also serve as the first research hub for women and cardiovascular disease in the country. Information gathered by the cardiologists will help advance the knowledge about the incidence of CVD among women. The unit will also organize lay fora, seminars and workshops on different topics relating to women's interests and cardiovascular concerns.

The Women's Heart Health Unit is located at the Heart Institute, 2/F St. Luke's Medical Center - Global City, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. It is open Monday - Friday from 9AM to 5PM and Saturday at 9AM to 3PM. For inquiries call (632) 789-7700 ext. 2021/2010.

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Edna Jong R. Arzaga

Car-proofing your kids

By Jeanette Iparo-Ramos

I JUST got a letter from a male reader who asked on how to teach his daughter to drive without crashing his precious ride. What caught my attention was his fear of going into car driving school thinking that his darling daughter might be mistreated by the instructors. Now that I have an adolescent son, I am starting to think about issues parents have when their precious offspring starts to spread their wings and start driving. How to make sure our kids drive responsibly, not cave in public roads, not using bumps as shields, not drinking and driving, not getting entrapped, etc., are just some of the fears that keeps us awake at night since they start looking at asking for the car keys.

Learning how to drive is probably one of the most important rites of passage in adulthood. It is therefore. Having their own car is totally wicked, imagine freedom on wheels. Us parents, we want to **give the best possible growing up experience** for our kids, which of course includes being cher cool. Having wheels is a big chunk of coolness, especially with a male offspring. But we have to manage **this desire while teaching them the basic** disciplines and skill that will help protect them on the road. Here are some advice in car proofing your kids.

1. Follow the law on driver's license age requirement.

As much as you want to give them cars at an early age, follow the age requirement for getting a driver's license.

Drive like a girl...fabulously

Going against it will backfire; you are not being a good example. Do the career of his incoming life to is already breaking the law.

2. Give cars as a prize or incentive, not a privilege.

Even if you are to visit or your car collection can rival a car dealership it does not mean a brand new car for no reason is unconditional love. You are to provide means of transportation, which can actually be done using the MRT, taxi, jeepney or the family car. Giving them their own set of wheels has to stand for something or work as a positive reinforcement, a prize for finishing high school without you having a heart attack or becoming a grandfather at a tender age of 40. That would make them show more respect for the vehicle because it's hard earned.

3. Get them the training they need.

You buy them a P10,000 phone, a P1 million-plus car, yet you skimp on possible training and rendering money that would help them on the road. Or is it responsible driving school. Check how many hazzahes they have and if they are listed Transportation Office accredited, etc. Learning from a driving school is better than learning from "Manong" the family driver (who is by chance an ex-jeepney driver) because its curriculum is systematic and updated on the latest technology and laws. And for your love than your girl will be taken advantage of, insist on bringing a chaperone in the classes or driving sessions. If you have a speed demon on your hands, find a way on how he can redeath this love rush and to a controlled environment or he can transfers back into Brian Heimer.

4. Take advantage of road safety programs.

Road safety programs, which include defensive driving and basic as to maintenance programs given by either your insurance provider or car manufacturer (Ford, Toyota, etc.) or your village (Ayala Alabang, Alabang Hills, Dasmarinas, etc.) or in the car dealership, are something that you should require before handing the keys to your precious son. There are usually don't end well thought out seminars. Some are really geared towards the youth or new drivers. There are some seminars that the seminars include hands-on training, which will come in handy during emergency situations.

5. Make the car appropriate for his age/school/area.

I am a big proponent of anti-COD (child of rotten). I will probably give my son, when he graduates from high school at age 18, a 3- to 4-year-old no-frills second hand car. Giving your son/daughter a sparkling, brand new sports car to bring to Taft Avenue is like dipping your hand in a tub of hungry piranhas expecting they will only look at it. He drops into possible casualties, like if your kid strolls to the UST or Taft, you might want to consider an SUV because those areas are flood prone.

TS HERE ARE road safety programs in school like this but training and watching courses that would help young drivers on the road are recommended.

6. Teach them about drinking and driving.

Let us talk about the elephant in the room. Kids may start drinking as young as 14-15 years old, we know this for a fact because we are living examples of it. But instead of being hypocrites about it, let us teach them to be responsible drinkers: ask them if they will be drinking with their friends and lend them a driver for the evening. Lifeline Rescue just launched a drunk dialing hotline (Dial 09911) you can call the hotline and they will send you their quick response unit with one driven. Jose to drive your car and the other to convoy it.

7. Include parking and gasoline as part of their meager allowance.

This will make them think twice about bringing the car and just going around for no reason. After this, talk to them about carbon footprint and the advantages of carpooling or riding with siblings with the family driver. For girls, explain to them how stylish women are always chauffeured driven, this adds drama and has the coveted heimer effect. Don't forget to stress the potential carjack scares.

8. Have a confirm when they drive their own cars ex gimmick.

Depending on their age, put a curfew on nights that they drive themselves and when they bring drivers. Add another one to exclusions in the time they turn into pumpkins. For daughters, explain the advantage of going down in front of the lobby of the club or bar, instead of walking a few blocks or their 4-inch heels. Be discreet in trying to know the details of the gimmick from drivers. The driver has to look like he is on their side but actually acts as a double agent in your favor.

Your kids aren't succeeding in opening hood: their drive that would make them more determined to succeed in life. Driving is a privilege, not a right. If you don't give them room to work hard for something then don't be surprised that at the age of 40, you still have an aging bachelor living under your roof.

For comments and suggestions, please email me at jo@jsautoracing.com.

Frugality with style: The 2012 Hyundai Eon

ON THE ROAD

Aisle Sorvillo-Mendoza

JUST WHEN everyone thought that the 110 unit Hyundai Motor's feisty, lower priced, more fuel-efficient mini subcompact car, Hyundai's No. 1 carmaker came up with an even smaller, lower priced fuel sipping 5-door hatchback called the Eon. But when the Eon was unveiled at the 8th Manila International Auto Show last April, it was hardly noticed because all eyes were on the sporty Veloster coupe that Hyundai Asia Resources Inc (Hari) introduced at the same time.

Nonetheless, with a no-frills EL variant priced at only P488,000, or P40,000 less than the i10 EL, the Eon is poised to grab market share from competitors in the below P500,000 entry-level segment, which is booming as oil prices continue to increase. Fact is, the Eon is like a pioneer because it is the first 800 cc, 5-cylinders in-line motor vehicle to be commercially offered in our country.

Being primed as competitive, the Eon is obviously targeting young consumers who are buying a new car for the first time but who are limited by a low budget. More mature buyers who need a nimble, economical second or third car to run errands in urban environments will also consider the Eon.

Aerodynamic. Hyundai raised the bar in this segment by designing the Eon to be not only frugal with fuel, but also stylish and loaded with features not usually found in budget cars. Hyundai's revolutionary wind-swept, fluidic design language was applied tastefully, keeping the car's small dimensions (length, 3495 mm; width, 1550 mm; height, 1580 mm) and an aerodynamic profile in mind. The clear-type headlamps sweep back the entire length of the hood, while tapered lines contour the sides and bulging wheel arches highlight the wheel-caps that can pass for alloy wheels. An integrated rear spoiler with high-mount stop lamp also large, land-mount taillights with a chrome accent touch to the hatchback. Beside the aerodynamic Eon, with its 0.33 coefficient of drag, rival mini subcompacts look boxy and outdated.

Inside, the two-tone color scheme, quality materials and upscale dashboard with integrated audio system completes the stylish exterior. The central gauge cluster has a welcoming light and green lights showing the fuel level and engine temperature instead of needles. In lieu of a tachometer, the Eon has a gear shift indicator guide that helps the driver to drive efficiently and optimize fuel economy.

The steering wheel in the GLS variant (P498,000) is tilt adjustable and the AM/FM tuner with CD has MP3, Aux-in and USB ports plus four speakers. While the GL variant has only two speakers in front, space is provided behind the rear seat for the installation of after-market ones.

Space is an important factor when shopping for a small car and the Eon sets this out by providing ample headroom and legroom for front- and rear-seat occupants. Cargo space with a 215-liter capacity even with the rear seat up. With the bench-type rear seat folded down, cargo space is increased.

While the front seats are comfy and provide adequate back support, the rear seat is said to be too narrow for baby parents. Leg room and headroom are cramped in the back due to the sloping roofline. But cup holders, door map pockets and cubbyholes abound in front and all-in-gether with an open storage tray at the center fascia, a spacious glove box and a floor console. And the powerful, manually-operated air-conditioner with 4-speed blower guarantees cool climate control.

THE TRENDY two-tone interior with upscale dashboard and integrated audio system

HALF-MOON shaped taillights and rear spoiler with high-mount stop lamp

THE EPUMPKIN 1.1-L, 3-cylinder engine averages 16.3 km per liter.

INSIDE, a central gauge cluster, 5-speed manual gearshift and integrated audio system

EVEN with the rear seat in place, there is still 215 liters of cargo capacity

In both the GL and GLS variants, only the front windows are power-operated. The GLS units (P60,000 more because it has optional door locking, keyless entry a driver's side SRS airbag, covering shelf in the cargo area, and cup-holder, adjustable front seat headrests and front fog lamps, tilt-adjustable steering wheel, body-color bumpers, door handles, side mirrors, and a body color with chrome hexagonal grille.

Solid. Despite its mini size, the Eon feels solidly built with uniform panel gaps and no squeaking or rattling on bumpy roads, although the ride gets bouncy over craters. The 0.8-liter, 3-cylinder Epsilon engine mated to a 5-speed manual transmission produces 55 bhp at 5500 rpm and 75 Newton meters max torque at 4000 rpm. Steering (nonpower) and weight are reduced by Motor Driven Power Steering which at the same time helps improve fuel economy and steering response, Hyundai claims.

At low speeds or smooth surfaces, the ride is compliant although the 3-pot motor gets loud and vibrates a bit at higher revs. While 0-60 levels need to be lowered, the Eon remains impressively stable and planted even at speeds exceeding 100 kph, thanks to the MacPherson strut front suspension linked to an i-shaped, compact front subframe and a stabilizer mounted directly on the strut. A coaxial beam axle constitutes the rear suspension.

The Eon's engine strains to hit 130 kph-red up, but hey, it's only an 814-cc, 3-cylinder motor. Despite the absence of ABS, the brakes (discs in front, drums at the rear) perform reliably, stopping in a straight line to zero from the car's top speed of 128 kph with no side-ways maneuvers. With such a small engine and low gross vehicle weight (1140 kg), Hyundai claims that the Eon gets 26.3 km per liter on the highway, but 17-16 km per liter in accelerated city and highway driving is more likely.

Interesting up, the Eon offers best-in-class value for money with its fuel efficiency, solid build quality, eye-candy aerodynamic styling, upscale features and interior ambience.

The Ultimate Touring Machine

BMW 528i makes a thousand-mile journey a thrill

Text and photos by Jason R. Ang

Driving in the United States is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, you have (mainly) world-class highways, signs in English, and restaurant stops every few miles. On the other hand, those highways are long and monotonous; even lush foliage bordering the road can cease to be amazing after three or so hours. So it was with a mixture of excitement and apprehension when we started our road journey in the United States.

AN EMPIRE state of mind: BMW 528i holds its own among the skyscrapers at Rockefeller Center.

After a 15-hour flight from Hong Kong to New York (19 hours from our first flight out), we arrived, only to begin the second leg of our journey: 438 km from New York to our final destination in Virginia. He actually felt a bit tired as we saw our ride for the afternoon...a beige BMW 528i—which is a good sign then.

The new-generation 5 Series is a handsome sedan, eschewing the avant-garde but ultimately weird styling cues of its predecessor and instead looking like a future classic. Tapered head-lights, smooth profile with nicely recessed flanks, and just about perfectly proportioned—it was an invitation to drive if ever there was one. The BMW 5 Series is the perfect choice within the BMW lineup for a multi-use, multi-hour drive. It's large and comfortable enough for a family of four with checked luggage, while being still compact enough for easy maneuverability.

Traditionally, the 528i would be packing a 2.8-liter displacement engine, usually a six-cylinder that conspicuously sees the absence of two cylinders under the engines replacing the in-line-sixes. Thanks to twin-scroll turbocharging, direct injection, and variable valve and camshaft timing, the four-pots produce plenty of power. The 2.0-liter in the 528i is good for 245 hp and 350 Nm, more than the six cylinders. Just a few generations ago, a 2.0-liter pumped up to produce 245 hp would have been a beast of an engine, peaky and revving mountain to respond to throttle inputs while its turbo spools up. Thanks to the miracles of modern electronics and materials, the four-cylinder is as responsive as its larger naturally aspirated predecessor. It revs go from 0 to 100 kph in 6.3 seconds.

The four-pot engine is mated to an eight-speed automatic, through to the rear wheels. We used to do line-ups just for cc engines, but in this one exactly is better. With the extra tall gearing in seventh and eighth gears, the 528i can cruise at 104 kph (the speed limit on most US highways) with the engine turning over at just 1750 rpm. Now, 10 highway traffic hardly travels at the speed limit, so when bogging up with other traffic at 120 kph, the engine is still at just 2250 rpm. This pays off dividends in fuel economy. The tank-fuel economy for the 528i is set at 11 km/liter. Over the trip we recorded 11.32 km/liter in mixed city and highway driving. This was better than two other four-cylinder cars we rode in while on this trip: a Honda Accord 2.4 and a Nissan Sentra 2.0 (with a manual transmission in that), both lighter and with substantially less power.

EERIE in the city of humanity here, the BMW 528i engenders a genuine love of driving, even through a five-hour, nonstop journey.

Other fuel-saving technolo-

Audi A6 3.0 TDI Quattro: Legendary Le Mans-bred technology

By Butch Santos

SKID MARKS
Butch Santos

AFTER watching the 80th 24-hour of the 24 Hours of Le Mans recently, I was glad to have sampled more again the Audi A6 3.0 TDI to remind myself why diesels are the way of the future.

Purists and die-hard petrolheads will argue that diesels and performance cars are mutually exclusive, but true sport and performance enthusiasts respect one thing: if it's good enough for auto racers, particularly the legendary Le Mans endurance event, then it's good enough for serious performance enthusiasts.

Aside from the record-winning V8 engine that now produces over 1.65 ps and 900 kilometers of torque from its Twin-Electric Gerotor-Crower injector equipped CRDi direct injection system and VGT ten turbochargers, the same engine is mated to the Audi six-speed 3-Tronic system which drives all four wheels with Quattro AWD ensuring sure-footed security and responsive, sure-fit ride regardless of weather conditions. The A6 is the only car in its class to offer this drivetrain combination. Fuel consumption is rated from a low of 6 km/liter to a best of 13 km/liter in mixed city and highway use with heavy traffic.

The A6 has been intelligently revised for the 2012 model and published runs in 2012, which include Travel/Lifestyle Award 2012 presented by the Automotive International Circle, Eyes on Design Award 2012 awarded by the Detroit International Industry, Best Executive Car 2012 by Auto Express (UK) and the Golden Steering Wheel Award 2012 by Bild Am Sonntag, the world's sixth largest newspapers in circulation. As if the LED headlights weren't attention-seeking enough, the design will truly captivate you. The list is handsome as well as exceptional to drive, hence the awards.

But it is equally hard to fault the interior beneath the luxurious looks is a depth of character presented by impressive standard equipment: the leather interior is class-leading to space as well as design and fit-set, there is a plethora of safety equipment standard (ASR-ESC-Servo with brake assist, dynamic traction and stability control, 8 airbags consisting of dual front airbags, dual front knee airbags, dual front side airbags and dual curtain airbags) and the Audi Drive Select System, which alters driving feel from comfort to dynamic, is made by lowering the suspension, increasing damping firmness, increasing steering related either and altering the gear by wire acceleration. There is an automatic mode that switches back and forth from comfort to sport depending on speed and driving conditions, and an individual setting which allows the driver to fine-tune the settings. For the engine, transmission, suspension and steering for a customized (i.e., sport suspension, sport steering but comfort seat and engine and transmission settings). If you're complicated buy Audi's Multi-Media Interface displays all the relevant information clearly and is admirably intuitive to operate, even for first time users. The BOSE sound system is as excellent as ever, and if you prefer to sit in the back and have some private time, sunshades come up at the back windshield automatically, as in the rear passenger windows manually. This also blocks off heat and sunlight. Another cooling the cabin to the quad-zone climate control system is never overworked.

THE A6 has already won multiple awards from various groups and publications such as the year.

The trunk is frankly huge. I brought the A6 to an Open House Subic three drives south for my daily grind to a much wider property developers and the A6's cavernous trunk swallowed cups, fires, foodstuff, office equipment and more with room to spare. Four 9-inch golf bags and matching clothes bags rolled easily in under 60's here.

High-speed stability is the A6's forte. Cruising above 120 kph and hitting 250 kph is dangerously easy in the A6's ultra-quiet and refined cabin means you'll barely notice that you're well over the speed limit and be holding-like cops. But above the 180 km/h region and nudge the section of Diosdado Macapagal and the A6's cruise-ness crack sweetened maps, fires, headlamps, office equipment and more with room to spare. Four 9-inch golf bags and matching clothes bags rolled easily in under 60's here.

Auto sweepers and cheap hands with insanely smaller and lighter cars wish they had. The steering feels responsive but not nervous, though it feels light, but is good, and just can glance the wheels were you would there, unexpectedly allowing you to flow for in corners to corner. The brakes are strong, and in dynamic mode feels like it can stop the 1,940 kg saloon repeatedly from 200+ kph all day. It's also a lightweight in its class, with competitors weighing in a good 100 kg more. The 19-inch wheels with Michelin 245/40R19 tires look small underneath the gaping wheel-arches, yet are properly filling-sized. Remember, despite the low-profile all-season performance tires, the A6, even in Dynamic Mode, has enough compliance to soak up the sunken imperfections, bumps and ripples of Edsa to make forward progress smooth and slick.

And when you're ready to huff it, the A6's cabin is a very pleasant place to smoke time away in. Everything is covered in soft leather, the seats adjust 14-different ways, the steering wheel adjusts for both reach and rake, and the buttons are laid out well with the TDI engine humming very softly, you'd think it wasn't running. The MMI controls are just behind the gear-shift mechanism, the steering wheel boasts buttons for the audio/telephone system and cruise control, and the dashboard is complemented by the dashboard as everything looks clean, elegant and simple. When you sort covered in dark leather is a rear of dark maple wood, dark-speed soft touch plastics and some contrasting chrome trim to brighten up what could have been a dark interior. At night, soft-glow LED mood lights make the A6 feel more special than most car interiors, giving it the... lounged to two-seat chic or the interior.

Legendary Le Mans winning TDI performance, award-winning design, Quattro stability and an environmentally friendly lightweight sustenance, the list is truly in a class of its own.

HOW powerful is a locomotive? The BMW 328i took an hours-it-can-take near Interscope, Pennsylvania

The Ultimate...

From page B2-3

gine link under the 520's hood. The power steering and oil pump are electrically actuated only when needed, further increasing energy and fuel it back to the battery. The cool-drive stopper is literally the Auto Start-Stop system. This shuts down the engine when the car is at a full stop at stop lights, stop signs, stop-and-go traffic or except the clutch. In fact, the auto shut down brought back memories of fiddling a clutch engagement and having the engine die. But the system smoothly fires up the engine the split second we release the brake pedal.

At Mandaluyong, all the electrics including the air-conditioning stay on. A dashboard button can turn off the system if it becomes too obtrusive.

The engine under the sedan itself turns in each right foot control, and it can be driven in the mode does we didn't mind the journey. Finding the ideal driving position was made easy by the fully adjustable driver's chair, including an extendable seat cushion. The 520's sculpted rear seats are just as comfortable, did are mounted in supple Tuscan leather. Inside all controls were intuitive, including the formerly outstanding Zotac system. The electronic gearshift lever, which toggles forward and backward and with a thumb button for push, still takes some getting used to. The navigation system is state-of-the-art, with junction view and 3D buildings within any area.

The aluminum suspension system, control arms up front and multi-link at the rear, keeps the 5 Series glued to the road through and smooth, while damping off bumps and potholes. This gives more of one flat feel, wants more compliance, too. Steering feel just the right bal-

BRILLIANT: with state-of-the-art electronics, including a comprehensive navigation system, the BMW 520i is still rewarded by driver controls.

ance of effort and feedback. The 3 liter-6 under the sub-cc fly to a high-powered 184 ps, and you'll very actually wanted much quicker than it was. In the true test of a good touring car, we interval in as good shape as when we stepped into the car. In the days that followed, too, as a daily driver, I covered 200 more miles, but I proved its worth as a luxury sedan.

Our two weeks of living with the 5 stoked what could have been the beginning of a beautiful friendship. The car qualifies as a finalist in the "what can we steal you pick if you could have only one for the rest of your life" issues but perhaps we'll spring for the M version. As it is, the Urban Issue whether it was jetting with the traffic in Manhattan, driving straight to an Autobahn or in hometown Pennsylvania (the happiest place on earth, perhaps), and parking next to most with limousines in Washington, DC.

What makes this generation of 5 a big step forward from its predecessor is that the technology is a genuine enhancement. It no longer gets in the way, like the teenage variable-ratio steering of that model. The one fault like a technology-enhanced machine-so-cool, it's long and fast Gm.

Easy to ride, hard to upkeep

For those who can afford it, buying ultra-luxury sports cars is now as easy as 1, 2, 3. But here are ups and downshifters to what

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT'S BOOMTIME for the Philippines. Analysts recently proclaimed the country as already an emergent economy, no longer the "Sick Man of Asia," an archipelago with a sweet spot for investors.

It's also sweet time for the automotive sector, where the (re)emergence of ultra-luxury performance brands and high-end sports machines may be heralding what some motoring scribes has termed the "sports car renaissance" in the country.

There are now reasons and means for Pinoys to buy luxury vehicles and money runs where ever, with the influx of these technologically endowed vehicles comes new obstacles and challenges.

These questions must now be asked: For those who have the needed, is now a good time to buy luxury cars? What are the dominables to owning these seven- and eight-figure luxury and sports cars in the Philippines, and what should be owners' top considerations for buying luxury cars before they can roll them out on our roads?

Because Motoring has asked sports car enthusiasts these questions. Though there answers have been a resounding yes to the first question, they still do have their own opinions on what would come next for owners after the purchase:

1. Items. How to keep that ride clean, in the eyes of the public, and for MO.

"This was Automobile Association Philippines motorsports committee chair Mandy Ednapet's most important consideration for ultra-luxury car owners.

Case in point: Two years ago, owners of Lamborghini in the Philippines were put on the spot when a pandemic typhoon was just to eat, so, task, for not parking the proper distance on his P26-million car to talk to a Lamborghini owner (who requested to be named, for obvious reasons) who lamented about the bad (but) rep the car, and its owners in the Philippines, was getting. "Not all high-end cars are smuggled. Some are paid to the proper amount (to be taxed), that is another topic. However, let's not stereotype everyone that owns a luxury car as a tax cheat or a smuggler. Those are top contributing items, for they are showing a lot of flash. It's unfortunate that since there are attention grabbing items, they tend to draw negative opinions," is that time the owner spoke on his mind, those were an estimated 10 Lamborghini owners in Manila alone, plus an undetermined number in Cebu.

2. Up. For public officials who have something to hide, buy a really expensive car.

Buy an ultra-luxury vehicle, and have less to worry about in your multi-million bank accounts. "Buying a luxury car is a great way for public officials to launder their ill-gotten wealth. Buy a luxury car, register it under a friend's or corporation's name, and voila! You have less to include in your SALN or for AMLA to find in your undisclosed bank accounts," Ednapet quipped.

But there's a down in this conundrum: "How to register it under a name other than yours," he chuckled.

3. Down. Where to run it without getting a ticket for overspeeding, Ednapet said. Sports car enthusiast Ted Sioco, to mention other concerns, includes traffic, parking and lack of good roads.

These quandaries, however, are applicable only to those owners who intend to use their vehicles on the road. Those are really designed to do—to run fast and wild. These drivers mean nothing, of course, when owners only want to show off their prized catch in their garages.

4. Up. Most ultra-luxury and sports car brands are now legally imported.

That means more choices for potential owners for good payment schemes and after-sales service. Still, Yutivo hastened that taxes are too high for these imported items.

5. Down. Maintenance is a must. And expensive as it will, in the end, made by fallible humans. Not everything about the car will last as long as you'd like them to, do expect repeats that roadliners could say victim to wear and tear. Materials, as well as some additives and plastics, could also give way during hot weather. Nothing that an immensely financially endowed owner can't handle, of course.

Ednapet, before you sign that check, Yutivo advised that owners should make sure that the car is assigned the parking space it deserves—protected from the ill-intentioned and the elements. Also, the vehicle, if it is meant as a surprise for the special, must be of the pleasant kind. He added that buyers should get only the car options that he or she really wants, and they must build a good relationship with their dealer.

"If you have a driver, coach him all the essentials, features, and how to maintain your checks and proper driving," he added.

Finally, before driving off into the sunset and into the neon lights of the burning cities, drink long and hard while affirming to the luxury sport car really that your friendship became, in the end, an admiring public will eventually ask: "Who owns who?"

Do you own a supercar? Email your Philippine driving experiences to the author at tsalazar@inquirer.com.ph.

Kato tipped to meet Katy in Singapore's Night Race

By Abril Ajo

FORMULA ONE fans who will be there to watch the world's only Formula One night race in Singapore can also catch pop idol Katy Perry up close on race day this coming September as the Padang stage sites as a specially demarcated "Fan Zone" located near the performance stage. Sadly but Singapore Grand Prix (SGP) ticket holders can register at their ticket transaction counters (email us the confirmation e-mail or ticket receipt to avail of guaranteed access passes in the Fan Zone and some 3,000 free Zone wristbands will be given to lucky registered ticket holders. To access the Fan Zone page, one has to log on to www.singapore.gp and the number of wristbands to be given to each registered patron will be equivalent to the number of tickets purchased. The limited offer will end once all 3,000 Sunday wristbands have been redeemed. Fans who failed to win the wristband access pass need not fret, as the Padang concert grounds has a capacity of over 20,000.

MTV sensation Katy Perry's Sunday performance draws in a nine-three days of action-packed Formula racing and a series of spectacular tell-me concerts that promises to make the fifth installment of the Singtel Singapore Grand Prix a memorable one. Does the race finished until the 2011 GP F1 race champion is crowned at the wire, Perry will perform live with her chart-topping hits at the Marina Bay Street Circuit. F1 race fans can access the Padang concert grounds as well as all entertainment offerings it does 4 with any ticket for the Singapore Grand Prix purchased starting from above Singaporean $178 for a 3-day Zone 4 Weekend ticket.

Perry is considered a global superstar whose two albums have earned several number 1 hit singles and multi-platinum sales during the past few years. Her career is also known for her controversial line-up for the year's SGP that includes stars Bill King and Green Day rock star Ayr Chris, famously known as Rose, who is slated to perform on Friday, Sept. 21, and alcoholic Grammy-award winner band Maroon 5, who performs the following day.

Close was also known for his role as "Tatiana," star of the hit movie "Initial D" from the famous Japanese anime series about a popular drift race driver. In real life, he has a penchant for fast cars and has a strong following in Asia's motoring enthusiast market. He will be the first entertainment artist of Chinese descent to perform on the five-year-old Singapore Grand Prix. His latest album "Now" combines Middle Eastern voice with American rap, Dubbing Opera and beatboxing. In just 12 years, he amassed a total of 11 best-selling albums throughout his career. His last performance in Singapore at the Singapore Stadium for three nights as a solo show, which was part of his 2010 Model Tour, was sold-out within hours of going on sale.

COLOMBIAN Koinaco Corp. president Elena Dominguez turns over the symbolic key to Philippine Azkals team manager Dan Palami. Looking on are CAC MPDer marketing Benito Guiao, CAC marketing manager Bayleg Barbarin, Azkals coach Michael Weiss and some of the Azkals.

Azkals keep Kia as official transport provider

LAST MAY 2011, the Colombian Autocar Corp. (exclusive distributor for all Kia vehicles in the country) kicked off a thrilling partnership with the Philippine Azkals. This official Division crowned from Rizal division to support these talented athletes who have been representing the country in local and international football competitions. It's no secret that Kia has fallen in love with the game and CAC is determined to help the Azkals in their pursuit of excellence in sports. In the course of 2011, CAC has been present in Azkals matches and several of the players have expressed their support for Kia on various occasions. In December 2011, Azkals veterans were also given their own Kia vehicles to drive around.

With a year of exciting collaborations with the team, CAC officials say their contract for a second year as the Azkals' official transport provider. Still at the Azkals-Sports Bar last June 25, the signing event was witnessed by the mascots and sports media.

Following its aggressive sports marketing strategy, this will be one of the major sponsors at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. As one of the official Philippine cars, Kia will be supplying vehicles for its model line-up that will be used during FIFA events. Kia is also boosting its brand recognition through a number of marketing activities and Azkals' endorsements in the stadiums during the games.

Kia Motor's commitment to sports and passion for football are showcased in its continued partnership with the Philippine Azkals. With the different sports sponsorships, Kia Motors Corp. will continue to strengthen the brand as a global automobile that is adventurous and young at heart.

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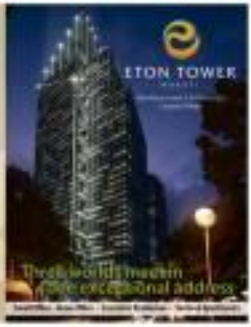

Rock-solid confidence
Supplement to Philippine Daily Inquirer

Flood control measures given priority at Pueblo de Oro

By Raquel Gomez

A MAJOR concern of buyers when looking for real estate property to purchase is the development's defense against flooding, which in recent years has increasingly affected many parts of the country because of global climate change.

HORIZON Residences in San Fernando, Pampanga

CW Home Depot opens its 7th branch in Las Piñas

GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

Today's Service. Today's Home Depot.

Today's builder store comes close to customer

The shopping convenience you deserve and the most unique perks you can get are CW Home Depot's trademarks.

All the service you deserve today, all under one roof.

Exclusive Brands:

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Asiana Oasis provides home away from home

A NEW home can spell new beginnings. For the young professional, it's about achieving independence. For newlyweds, it's the start of building a new family; and for empty nesters, it's for enjoying a life well lived.

During one's own quiet time to be celebrating, but wouldn't it be great to have your own haven yet still be near your friends and loved ones? Filinvest's Asiana Oasis offers that: home away from home that is still comfortably close to one's long-time abode.

Located inside Parañaque's Multinational Village, Asiana Oasis is the ideal home for young professionals within the subdivision as well as neighboring communities. With an Asiana Oasis unit, the young owners can enjoy the freedom and independence of space, but still are by no means far away from mom and dad.

Young families who call the area their home but spend money on one, can finally move up to have their own place at Asiana Oasis. Older couples will also find Asiana Oasis the perfect home because of the generous space, safe and secure environment, and professional management.

The 5-hectare environment, with its lush landscapes and car-less roads also help contribute to their better health.

The sprawling Asiana Oasis features a wide array of amenities and facilities that provides lots of recreational options for residents and their visiting families. There's the clubhouse's activity pavilion that's perfect for reunions; a gym for fitness enthusiasts, and the main room with a bar and lounge that are perfect for after-dinner conversations.

Kids will go crazy for the wide open spaces of the playlawn and outdoor activity area while adults can take an al fresco dip in the swimming pool.

REFRESHING recreational options abound for future residents of Asiana Oasis

Future residents can choose from 2-bedroom units ranging from 48 to 50 square meters, or 4-bedroom units with 96 square meters of space. Selected units also have a balcony, giving owners a view of the great outdoors.

Recently, more than 200 guests converged to Asiana Oasis for the opening of the developer's marketing office, where they all had a glimpse of what's in for its five exciting community: Aside from the many venue and lovebirds, guests were also given P25,000 off when they signed up for any of Asiana Oasis' units. This promo has also been extended until June 2012, to give future residents a chance to enjoy great savings.

Asiana Oasis is an exciting addition to Filinvest's growing portfolio of Gozo-themed development across the metro. These include the Sullmore-inspired Bali Oasis along Marcos Highway, the Italian-inspired Capri Oasis and Sorrento Oasis in Pasig, the Dutch-island-themed Mesa Oasis in Sta. Mesa, Manila, and Dao Oasis Cottages in Cebu and Davao.

A leader in property development for almost 50 years, Filinvest is committed to making the Filipino's dream to have a home of his own come true. Guided by the Gotesman tradition of longevity, quality and service, it forges ahead with renewed dynamism. Beyond building homes and communities for Filipino families, Filinvest comes to the fore of building dreams for the Filipino.

The Asiana Oasis Marketing Office is located along NAIA Road beside Ospreypoint, and is open every day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information on Asiana Oasis, call 855-0000 or 0917) 877-8000, or visit www.filinvest.com.ph.

It's Apo Floors for Federal Land projects

Apo Floors recently renewed its commitment to supply flooring for a number of Federal Land projects. A partner of the Metrobank Group, Federal Land has a track record of quality and reliability, and this is reflected as well on their choice of flooring.

According to Apo Floors Mary Ciarro, "We are proud to have Federal Land as one of our clients. We are glad to be a part of their impressive track record of quality in all its various projects."

APO Floors was chosen to supply flooring for Federal Land's numerous projects, from mid-end, to upscale ones. Some of the partnerships' beautifully-created residences include the Midstone Garden Mansion, the Peninsula Garden, Midstone Homes, Driftcliff Place, Oriental Garden, Marquise Garden Tower, and the Grand Model.

A particular staple in Federal Land's projects is APO Floors' ARQT homogeneous resilient line that comes in a variety of colors and in tile or roll forms.

For instance, for the property firm's flagship project, the Oriental Gardens in Makati, Federal Land utilizes APO Floors' ARQT tiles to some visitors in its model units.

Aside from its aesthetic qualities, Apo Floors' product lines also have uniform composition that prevents the color of the tile to fade throughout its lifespan. It is an affordable floor covering whose sustained care makes it more comfortable for the feet and legs. This same cushioning property keeps the floor surface warmer to the touch owing to the insulating value it gives.

It also has the APO Aeribac feature incorporated in the molecular structure of the floorings. These neutralize germs and fungi on flooring day-after-day year-after-year providing an added level of hygiene and safety to things that come in contact with the flooring material. With ingredients registered and approved by regulatory agencies such as EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) in the US, Aeribac is safe, effective and durable.

Other benefits of using APO Aeribac includes protection from odor, staining and discoloration, loss of properties (e.g. hardening), biofilm formation, and cross contamination.

Joel Castro, "We want our products to be testaments of how we can have finishing products in the market that do not only contribute to the beauty of the project, but also to the safety and hygiene of its occupants."

APO FLOORS provides Federal Land projects like its flagship Oriental Gardens with added beauty, as well as safety-and-hygiene features for its residents.

APO FLOORS' ARQT product line provides Federal Land projects like the Oriental Gardens with added flair and sophistication.

Flood control measures given priority at Pueblo de Oro

From page B3-1

This is why developer Pueblo de Oro Development Corp. (PDDC), a leading real estate developer and member of the Investment & Capital Corp. of the Philippines Group, is diverted congressionally engaged in investment banking and property development, has made this a priority in its residential projects in San Fernando in Pampanga, Sto. Tomas in Batangas, and Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu.

According to PDDC chair and CEO Guillermo D. Luchangco, the company has incorporated flood control measures in the planning and design of its development projects ever since it went into real estate 15 years ago.

"The residential projects of PDDC have been put to the test in the recent challenges and have continued to pass such flying colors," said Luchangco.

According to Luchangco, PDDC has always believed in providing quality and responsible engineering and design into its development, as reflected in its slogan, "The Gold Standard in Community Living," and one of the factors it has consistently paid attention to is the flood control measures—even before it became apparent that climate change was making it an imperative concern in property development.

Proof of the PDDC's implementation of an effective flood control planning is the 260-hectare master planned township in Cagayan de Oro. Residents there have been spared from floods that have affected other parts of the city.

PDDC has transferred its flood defense planning and engineering to its newest residential development in San Fernando, Pampanga, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, and Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu.

Elevated development in Pampanga

As typhoons Helenng, Maloy, Pedring lashed down on San Fernando City in May, June and September 2011, Pueblo de Oro Pampanga Corporation was one of the few areas in Barangay Del Carmen that remained high and dry. This is because PDDC took the precaution by having a flood water study conducted prior to commencing its development activities in the area.

As a result of its findings, the company spent close to P200 million to elevate its 30-hectare residential community by 1.5 to 2 meters above its original level and to construct an efficient drainage system that allows rainwater to spread through different grounds and finely run off.

One homeowner shares: "At the height of Typhoon Pedring, 17 towns and cities were submerged knee deep in water, but Pueblo de Oro Construction in Barangay Del Carmen remained flood free and accessible."

Flood containment measures in Cagayan de Oro

PARK Place in Sto. Tomas, Batangas

In Cagayan de Oro City, PDDC implemented structural such as major economic drainage outfall down the hillside and a large detention pond in the valley were constructed to serve as a dissipator and catch basin, respectively, for excess water.

The 8,300 square meter pond, which has a maximum depth of six meters, can hold up to 25,000 cubic meters of rain and drainage water and was built not only for the benefit of Pueblo residents in the valley but also to delay water build up which could lead to flooding in nearby areas bounded by the two streams that empty into the Cubasan Creek.

The effectiveness of the system was proven when the city suffered the worst flash flood on Dec. 16, 2011 due to typhoon Sendong. The 86-meter above sea level location of the Pueblo de Oro Township and detention pond was able to contain the excess water without overspilling, thus, protecting the residences of Pueblo de Oro and nearby communities.

Responsible development

Part of PDDC's DNA is to ensure that its developments are of high quality and provide necessary engineering measures for the safety and convenience of its residents. The company is a part of the ICCP Group, whose members include Security Bank of the Philippines, Inc. (SPPI), which owns 34 percent of PDDC through a wholly owned subsidiary.

SPPI is an acknowledged leader in industrial park development, and part of its reputation stems from its excellence of engineering designs. SPPI's first project was the Light Industry & Science Park I (LISP I) built in 1986. SPPI was one of the pioneers in introducing centralized waste water treatment in industrial parks in the Philippines.

With LISP II, SPPI spent P80 million to construct an underground box culvert to channel polluted waste water as well as a storm drainage run-off 1.2 km to the San Juan River to ensure that it would not flood the national highway or surrounding areas with effluent.

Luchangco assures that PDDC puts in an extra effort to develop projects engineered for safety and dependability, even when some of these features are not apparent to the buyer's naked eye.

The company believes that responsible developers with solid reputations are those which are committed to environment-friendly programs and effective measures for the responsible protection of its buyers.

Come home to the Best of the East: East Bel-Air Residences

In today's hustle and bustle, comfort and peace is where the modern working professional would want to go home to.

And in the eastern side of the metro, just a convenient 40-minute commute from the Ortigas business district or one side and 20-minute ride from the LRT 2 Magsaysay terminal on the other end, the newest live-cleverly residential condominium in the Cainta-Pasig crossroads is soon to rise: East Bel-Air Residences.

The Essence of Modern, Yet Comfortable Living

Who says that modern urban living means residing in cramped rooms, around congested streets and ugly and dirty surroundings?

East Bel-Air Residences offers just the opposite – convenient urban living in a suburban, elegant contemporary setting. It comprises six buildings all of which are only six floors high, ensuring more spacious and less confining living space for the harried modern homeowner of today. It is a housing development that suits the lifestyle and needs of the young, modern professional.

True to the Tan Yuchi development concept of offering the best and most complete amenities to all its subdivisions and vertical projects, East Bel-Air boasts of swimming pool and play area for the recreation and of future residents, as well as a two-storey clubhouse with multi-purpose hall and function rooms for community activities and functions.

The residential condominium is perfect for the new young urban professional, with contemporary architectural and interior design that is efficient and comfortable, set with living spaces inside and outside that promotes more cocooned, serenity and healthy lifestyle.

How to East Bel-Air, the ensured unplugged resident can come home and breathe freely. Most of the studio and one-bedroom units have their own balcony that faces beautifully landscaped gardens and an open space along the main road. The maisonettes for all floors are designed to have lateral windows at both ends, thus bringing in the fresh breeze from the Antipolo hills that provide natural ventilation and cooling to all the six buildings in the complex.

All units come fully finished using contemporary American design, along with its well-appointed kitchen, bath and other amenities and fixtures, in line with the fashionable theme of the master planned six-building residential complex.

Blueprint for Contemporary Lifestyle and Convenience

East Bel-Air, one of the newest of Tan Yuchi's regional and satellite projects, makes it mind the heart and needs of its target market – the first time single and newly married homeowners.

East Bel-Air absolutely offers the best choice for this growing market segment. The complex is strategically located at the Cainta-Pasig corridor at the mid point of the highly commercial Felix Avenue and near the giant Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Robinsons Metro East Mall on the northern side and Robinsons Cainta Mall on the southern side. On either side, it is within easy reach of popular restaurants and seafood chains, retail and convenience stores and the country's largest banks.

It is also one jeepney or TX ride to the LRT 2 Santolan terminal that brings commuters to almost all points of Metro Manila – perfect for the modern day residents who work or have to go regularly to Makati, Quezon City, Manila and even Ortigas Center. And, it is just a 20-minute commute to the colleges and universities around Katipunan and Aurora Boulevard.

Beginning of the Best of the East

The Clubhouse of East Bel-Air master-planned community has recently been completed and

Construction of the first tower is on full swing. Thus, soon East Bel-Air promises to change the landscape of the Felix Avenue-Pasig-Cainta corridor, with elegant yet contemporary design and themed gateway and total development that caters to the needs and wants and lifestyle of the modern working professional.

Yes, come home to the Best of the East: East Bel-Air Residences. For inquiries, please call Magdiel – (632) 681-7599, (632) 681-7488, (02) 317-3833 or e-mail to fo@magsaysay.com.ph / magsaysay@yahoo.com

Traditional Spanish comfort in a clubhouse

PREMIER property developer DMCI Homes brings future residents closer to the idea of living in the tranquil, gentle environment of a traditional Spanish-themed community with the recent completion of the Mariciolo Villas' clubhouse.

Enshrining not just the timeless appeal of Spanish architecture that defines the residents-size condo projects, the clubhouse complex is a testament to the developer's goal of providing communities not just a beautiful home, but also a wholesome environment suited for their lifestyle needs.

The total clubhouse area of almost 1,000 sqm. will be the center of social gatherings, with function rooms for family affairs or friends. It has a game area that provides additional recreational venue for residents.

The interiors have elegant contours of textured walls and dark wood furnishing. The fine lines of traditional Spanish architecture weave through the details of the clubhouse, such as the grand entrance, the staircase, the area leading to the ballroom, and the ceiling design. Its added Spanish touch is the combination of wood with colorful ceramic tiles similar to Marbacissibo of heritage homes.

The furniture in the lounge areas, the exquisite lighting fixtures and chandeliers, and even the ceiling fans unlike the Old World feel of the amenity.

Adding appeal to the amenity is the pool area for both kids and kids at heart. Those with an active lifestyle can also bike, or brisk-walk at the surrounding park. Others who wish to simply de-stress can relax at the lounge area, fitness parlor, or soak up the sun while lounging at the pool decks. Pocket gardens get the Spanish touch with planters and large, ceramic vase that truly add grandeur to the place.

Whereas most condominium offer the popular and simple Zen design now seen in many condo developments, Mariciolo Villas ensures residents in the theme with its lush landscapes.

Tradition in condo units

Outdoor features with DMCI Homes' trademark architecture design can be felt in all 518 units of the Mariciolo Villas. The buildings feature breezeways that will enhance the flow of natural ventilation and lighting in all units; an open landscaped atrium for lush verdant vegetation that improves not only the aesthetics of the home but also maximizes fresh air; and single-loaded corridors that allow units to open up to a balcony overlooking the landscaped atrium.

Keeping prospective buyers in mind, DMCI Homes also puts into place first-time building features in the development to guarantee the well-being, safety and security of residents.

Security measures such as closed-circuit perimeter fences, 24-hour security service, CCTV cameras in strategic areas, and roving security personnel are in place in make condo living truly worry-free for all families.

Convenience of location

Located in one of Metro Manila's Las Piñas historical corridor where the famous St. Joseph's Bamboo Organ is located, Mariciolo Villas is strategically near the Alabang business district and lifestyle hubs. It connects to key places via transportation hubs for people on the go.

The project site is approximately 500 meters near the Alabang-Zapote Road, and 1 km near the C5 Extension Road.

Mariciolo Villas can be reached via five major access routes: Quirino Avenue, Alabang-Zapote Road, Manila-Cavite Coastal Road, South Luzon Expressway and C5 Extension, making it accessible both for motorists and commuters.

The Molato CBD is only 14.9 km away, allowing at least 20 minutes travel time. The Filinvest CBD and the Alabang CBD, which are both a mere 10 km away from the project site, will likewise cause less worries for professionals with only 20 minutes' travel time. There are also nearby commercial spots (Alabang Town Center, festival Mall, and several first 500 malls); hospitals, schools, churches, transport terminals, and stores in the airports.

Mariciolo Villas offers customers the empire of being in a comfortable residential home, but with the convenience of a modern residential enclave. Living in this condominium project will be reminiscent of summer vacations spent soaking up the sun in grandmother's home or a favorite aunt's cozy vacation house.

This new development from the Triple A developer is composed of five medium-rise buildings set on an exquisite landscape of open spaces and lifestyle areas.

Mariciolo Villas, located one kilometer from St. Joseph's Church, home of the Bamboo Organ, is a private condo community project of DMCI Homes – a company of innovative builders and engineering experts who develop modern day living solutions for urban families.

Each of their developments is built with world-standard and humanity-human from R.M. Consunji Inc.'s almost 60 years of experience in the construction and development industry.

For inquiries on DMCI Homes projects, call 224-8888 or visit www.dmci-homes.com.

THE MARICIOLO Villas clubhouse has a total area of almost 1,000 sqm. and it seen to be the center of most social gatherings, with function rooms for family affairs or inward reunion with friends.

Cavite celebrates ISO certification, first in the Philippines

TRECE CAVITE: Provincial Government hosted by Governor Juvvic Remulla celebrated the conferment of ISO 9001:2008 certification, making it the first ISO-certified province in the Philippines.

The province adopted the principle of total leveling a quality management system and started its campaign for ISO certification late last year while technical preparations were formally initiated in February 2012 with the launching of the provincial government's quality policy signifying the start of the 120-days countdown.

Subject of the certification are the four-core offices of the provincial government including the Treasurer, Assessor's Office, Engineering Pantalleriqan and the Office of the Provincial Government together with there support of Gov. Human Resource Management Office, Information Technology Division and the General Services Office.

The certifying body composed of Anglo-Japanese American (AJA) Registrar granted the Certificate of Registration to the Provincial Government after finding no single major non-conformity during the second stage of the external audit. Prior to this, the provincial ISO core team conducted three quality internal audits to assess the preparedness of the subject offices followed by rigid management review meetings for corrective actions on some points.

ISO certification process usually takes around six to eight months but with the dedication and hard work of the ISO core team and the cooperation of the entire workforce, the provincial government achieved the much wanted certification 27 days ahead of schedule.

CW HOME DEPOT congratulates all the runners of RUN UNITED

"In behalf of Cebu Overseas Hardware and CW Home Depot, I would like to thank everyone who participated in RUN UNITED. I was glad that a lot of you came here today to celebrate Cebu Overseas 60th Anniversary and to raise funds for our charity projects. I would also like to acknowledge the partners who aide us in making this event possible: Pasig City Traffic and Parking Management Office, Eastern Police District and RIMDA for the facilitation of the event, the Administration of AutoCamp, Barangay Ugong Rescue Team for the ambulance and first aid personnel on stand by, our tenants here in CW Home Depot Ortigas Complex: Second Wind Running store for the hydration stations and Lala-T Bakery for the traffic cones. We look forward to more fun runs in the future, please remember: A home that runs together grows stronger and healthier," says Mr. Co.

There were a total of 12 winners for the 2.5K and 5K categories of Run United. CW Home Depot congratulates the following winners:

2.5K Category

Male

Champion – Melvin Dalleo
2nd Placer – Ruben Bellarmes
3rd Placer – Jordan Delos Reyes

Female

Champion – Charmaine Abesamis
2nd Placer – Rosaglen Dorado
3rd Placer – Gina Gello

5k Category

Male

Champion – Jhe Isaliqao
2nd Placer – Lenard Laverna
3rd Placer – Leonardo Laverna

Female

Champion – Rosemarie Jimeil
2nd Placer – Jackie Lou Asis
3rd Placer – Rosalyn Villanueva

More than 600 employees, families and friends of Cebu Overseas Hardware Company Inc. (COH) and its sister company – CW Home Depot bolted together for a special fun run last June 9, 2012. The first ever "Run United", organized by the two building and construction industry leaders, was in celebration of Cebu Overseas Hardware Company Inc.'s 60th Anniversary. The event also commits to donate a certain amount to its chosen charity for every runner who participated in the event. It is a brain child of CW Home Depot's partner's Engr. Napoleon Co who regularly supports running activities for special causes.

Since its inception in 2003, CW Home Depot had pledged to fulfill its corporate social responsibility participating in various activities for several causes. The Depot already took part in several fun runs, sporting activities, blood drive and other fund raising events to generate funds for outside and non-profit organizations and associations.

TOLEDO TOWER OF TROPICANA
NOW PRIMED FOR TURNOVER

Tropicana Garden City's swimming pool

Horizon Land Inc.'s Tropicana Garden City is taking shape as scheduled, with the Toledo Tower all set for turnover to its buyers. "The Toledo tower is already 100 percent completed and ready for occupancy," reported Mr. Jose Mari Berenguer, general manager of Federal Land, Inc. "Our administrative team has already scheduled the turnover sessions with the owners."

Horizon Land is a subsidiary of Federal Land.

The Toledo Tower is the first milestone to rise from the nine-tower garden city complex. A mix of studio and 1 up to 3-bedroom units fill a total of 17 all-residential floors. Its amenities are geared towards convenience and pleasure of both adults and children such as a day care center and lap pool for kids and adults. Both are ready to accommodate Toledo unit owners.

Apart from this, residents of Tropicana can look forward to an exciting array of amenities that are set common with other condominium projects like a library, a game room, a multi-purpose court, a fitness center and a clubhouse.

In line up to its promise as the new garden city in the East, Tropicana allotted over 60 percent of its development to greens and open communal spaces. All nine towers will feature aerial pocket gardens in various spots in the building. These are anchored on the ground level with lush forest, jogging, picnic areas and a jogging path for the health buffs.

Actual facade shot of Tropicana Garden City's Toledo Tower

The Tropicana Garden City is envisioned to become a self-contained community that has all types of conveniences and places of interests just within easy reach. An impressive shopping complex will surround the development, the biggest of which will comprise a wide selection of boutiques, specialty shops, service centers, entertainment, recreation and dining destinations.

Because of its strategic location, Tropicana Garden City is near important destinations like hospitals, churches, premier educational institutions, BPO towers, crown and dry market, other shopping destinations and various government offices. Public transportation such as jeepneys, Ayala/Ortigas shuttles and 19 are also always available.

Developed by the real estate investcies of Horizon Land, Inc., a subsidiary of Federal Land, Tropicana Garden City enjoys the distinction of being the first gated vertical development in the green city of Mandaluyong.

To know more about Tropicana Garden City projects, visit its showroom and information center at Sumulong Highway, or call 806-3953 or 681-0111. You can also log on www.tropicanogardencity.com.ph

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Parenting

When children bully adults

The case of 68-year-old bus monitor Karen Klein brought to light a rarely discussed aspect of bullying–children tormenting adults

By Pam Pastor

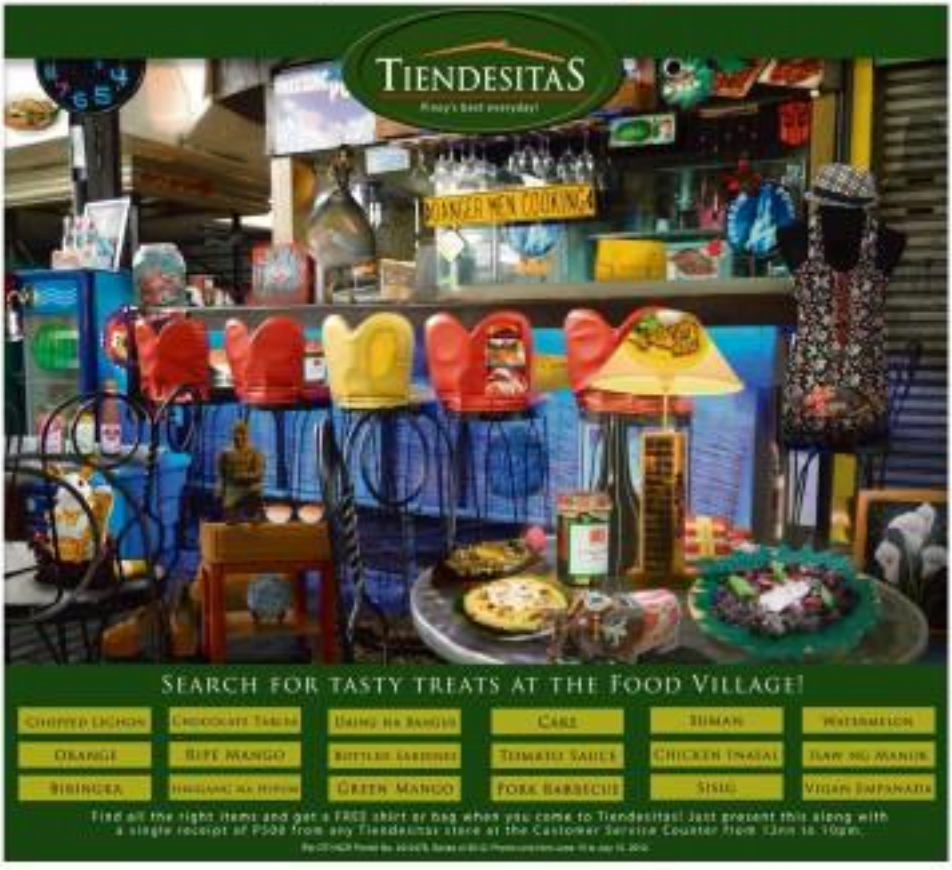
IT WAS a video that got the attention of people all over the world.

The 14-minute YouTube clip, which went viral last week, shows a group of young teenagers taunting, ridiculing, verbally abusing and threatening their elderly bus monitor on a school bus in Greece, New York.

The kids were cruel and relentless. "Oh my god, you're so fat," they said over and over again. "Put your glasses back on, I can't stand looking at your face." "You f***ing fat ass, look at all this fish right here." "Do you have herpes?" "What's your address so I can piss all over your dress?" "He's stabbed you in the stomach, my knife would f***ing go through like butter, because it's LIT f***ing kid."

The victim, 68-year-old Karen Klein, has received an outpouring of love and support from people who were shocked and intrigued by the bullying. They have sent her cards, flowers, teddy bears. The website fedupgo.com, which originally hoped to raise $5,000 to give Karen a vacation, has received over $650,000 from close to 30,000 donors from all over the world. Karen has also been offered free trips to Hawaii and Disneyland, a cruise and a new car.

While Karen has been getting a lot of love, her tormentors



When children bully adults

From page A1

sure...four boys ages 13 to 14...and their families have been the object of anger, hate mail and death threats.

"I'm sorry," said Robert Skiba, the father of one of Skiba's bullies, in an interview on the TV show "Inside Edition." "This is not the way I raised my kids. I never would have in my wildest dreams think that they were capable of anything like this."

The incident brought to light a rarely discussed aspect of bullying—children tormenting adults.

It's a problem that isn't often addressed—because adults are often embarrassed to admit that they have lost control and are being bullied by a child.

Adults often make excuses for bad behavior: They're childish pranks, they're just having fun, they're just being cute, they're kids being kids. But you have to draw the line between immature fun and bullying.

Regular aspect

Raven Rhett's story isn't as unique as we'd hope. Children are bullying not only other children—they can bully adults, too.

In an article on CNN.com, Hannah Pechtenger wrote, "School workers say it's a regular aspect of their daily lives."

It happens in the Philippines, too.

"My thought we were just high schools kids bullying but, unfortunately, a former student in an all-girls Catholic high school. "She'd play pranks on teachers, we'd play games while classes were going on, we'd completely ignore the teachers when they walked into class. But one day, we made our geometry teacher cry. That's when I realized it wasn't funny anymore," she said.

Joey, a graduate of a co-ed high school, shared something similar. "We had a science teacher everyone made fun of. All the boys called her "horse" and mocked her because they said she looked like one. She knew about it, she suffered for two years but didn't complain any of them."

And this happens not only in schools.

Andrew, now 24, remembers being possessed as a child by slapping his eyes. "When I was young, I wasn't very nice to the household help. We had an elderly maid who avoided me because I liked swearing her. I used to electrocute her with this little clicker thing I had," the parents classic of those incidences as conventional acts of productivity but Andrew thinks he was a bully. "I'm not proud of it," he said.

Bullied

Kids bully their parents and grandparents, too.

Detective Pito Lasa called Family Lives, a national helpline in the UK, reports that in 2008, 1,200 calls were made by parents reporting abuse by their children. Most of the perpetrators were 13 to 15 years old. In some instances, parents claimed to live in fear of their children.

Nadine this year, at a dinner party in Manila, seven-year-old Freddie scolded me to his grandfather to ask for money. When his grandpa asked him to say said dinner

Is your child a bully?

Watch out for these signs

IS YOUR child quick to blame others and unwilling to take responsibility for his/her actions?

Does your child lack empathy, compassion and understanding for other people's feelings?

Does your child exhibit aggressive and violent behavior?

Does your child regularly demanding?

Does your child have a bad temper?

Does your child always want to be in control?

Is there violence in your home? Is it possible your child came from a family of bullies?

Is your child often frustrated and anxious?

Does your child express aggression and violence in writings or drawings?

Is your child cruel to animals?

Has your child destroyed someone else's property?

Does your child spend a lot of time with other children who are bullies?

Does your child often get into fights?

Does your child talk about other children and adults in an aggressive or negative way?

Do you have a hard time setting limits for your child?

Are you inconsistent with discipline?

Is your child often computer-savvy?

Do you often receive calls and complaints about your child's behavior?

Do you find your child in possession of other people's money, toys or other belongings that isn't his/hers?

SOURCES: MAYOR CLINIC, MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT, PARENTS.COM, PSYCHCENTRAL.COM

BOYS can get comfy in casual sneakers while girls can get stylish in ballet flats.

New shoe styles for the school opening

FOR THE SCHOOL opening, Elle Kids offers trendy shoe options for boys and girls.

Girl styles include Mary Janes and ballet flats adorned with shiny bows and studded ruffles.

For boys wearing navy blue and khaki uniforms, Elle offers a structured leather with leather slip-on and suede shoes.

For physical education classes, Elle Kids has lace-up sneakers, rubber shoes with velcro straps, and basic sports shoes, each sporting cool, playful designs for boys and girls.

For field trips and family bus days, girls can get stylish in patent ballet flats in red and white, open-toe flats with ribbon and bow appliqué, while boys can get comfy in casual sneakers in classic red, blue and white.

Elle Kids shoes and apparel are available at all leading department stores nationwide and at Elle Kids Lucky Chinatown Town Mall.

PROUD mom Annina Serrano-Ahrens and daughter

It's all in the family

Celebrity mom Suzi Entrata-Abrera credits her mom for making her the mother she is today

TV HOST and prolific endorser Suzi Entrata-Abrera is no stranger to the rigors of being a working mom. Working on her career in the public eye while raising her rapidly growing daughters is no mean feat, but Suzi has mastered the juggling act of work-life balance.

How? She learned from the best.

The eldest of four, Suzi says her younger years were no different from today's mom rules. Didn't always see eye to eye with their parents. "I couldn't seem to understand them," she says, talking about one of her mom's biggest challenges—cleaning her room. Suzi, a self-confessed slob, can't quite, months she wouldn't see the mess!"

But fond memories lie outweigh challenging times, and Suzi tells a story about the little things that made an impact on their mother-daughter relationship. One favorite memory is "when mom makes me visits her long recipe notebook," she says.

As a hands-on working mother who has died the business side of the family's gasoline station, Suzi's mom took this opportunity to make lessons out of her time with her kids.

"She would let me go outs her to the office. I would count the coins and stack them up," Suzi recalls. "When I got older, I got to roll the coins in paper and label them. Basically, I spent time with her while learning about the business at the same time."

It was when Suzi started her own family that her mother's influence became more apparent, and in the most unexpected ways. All of a sudden, "I wanted how to cook and clean the house! My mother was an amazed, but I learned by watching her for many years. When the time came, there I was—cooking and cleaning like I was born to do it."

SUZI Entrata-Abrera with daughters

Despite having their differences, Suzi maintains a close relationship with her mom, reporting she's more than she is raising a family of her own.

"My mom has influenced me to be a strong mother who can balance family life and work life," she says. "I mean say that it's not easy and I now appreciate my mom more. Things seem a lot harder for her back then, but she managed it all and raised four good kids."

With three daughters to look after, Suzi already strives to do as good a job as her mom did raising her and her siblings. "Being a Nido mom has certainly opened my eyes to various creative ways of dealing with the many happy challenges of being a parent," she says, talking about the frustrations of her role as a public figure advocating proper parenting for the famous milk brand. "What I cherish in me is that I am a wise mom who gives her children the best. Or a mom who claims whatever it is available, coupled with a lot of reasoning, the best for her family."

There is no denying how much love and respect Suzi has for her mother, and for all mothers for that matter. Suzi is an avid gift-giver, and considers Mother's Day a special occasion to honor all moms in her family. As she says, "while buying mom, I look for two gifts for my mom in her my sister and sister-in-law. Really simple stuff that I know they especially mom that she is raising a family of her own.

This trait is something Suzi has passed on to her daughters, who give her small surprises during such special occasions. "My kids usually prepare breakfast in bed with the help of their papa," she says. "I look forward to it. It's always such a touching gesture."

And even during the times there is no particular occasion to celebrate, the kids continue to give Suzi reasons to smile.

"I appreciate the artwork they make for me, especially the ones that say I'm the best mom in the world!" she gushes. "That I'll always a princess or a queen in their drawings. I LOVE it!"

Clearly, Suzi has settled in quite comfortably into her role as a mother, which she attributes to the good upbringing her own mother gave her.

"As a mother, I am just grateful to have been given the chance. I never thought I would be so much like my mom when I became an adult," she claims. "She is resilient, strong-willed and a fighter. She had so many challenges when my siblings and I were growing up, and I am most grateful that she never gave up."

Bow & Wow and Cara host a doggie dinner for a cause

THE ANNUAL Bow & Wow Benefit Dinner for a Cause is scheduled on June 30, 6:30 p.m., at the Rockwell Tent, Makati City. Limited dinner tickets are priced at P1,500 (with dog), and P1,500 (without dog). Tickets may be purchased at Bow & Wow branches at Level 3, Shangri-La Mall and at the lower ground floor, Greenbelt 5, Makati City.

Bow & Wow, the country's first all-natural pet foods store, teams up with nonprofit organization Cara Welfare Philippines to bring together pet parents, provide expert updates and sustain coordinated efforts to continue providing for the shelter and care of homeless pets while waiting to find permanent loving homes for them.

Headed by devoted pet parent Tessa Prieto-Valdes, the benefit dinner promises to be an enjoyable evening of fun, festivities and lots of special prizes and goodie bags from Bow & Wow Philippines.

Highlighting the benefit dinner is a fashion show for pets featuring the collections of renowned Filipino designers such as Rajo Laurel, a magic show for dogs by master magician Lou Hidalgo, and a silent auction. There will also be a pet grooming station and other unique activities for pet parents and their pets. Attendees can look forward to a gastronomic feast at the open buffet prepared exclusively for the fundraising event by Margarita Fores of Cibo di M, not to mention a mouth-watering dog buffet by Bow & Wow.

For more information, visit http://www.carapbd.org/ and http://www.facebook.com/CARAPHAT; tel. (02)7-9948750; e-mail mother.ing@homeadmin.com.ph. All proceeds from the dinner go to Cara Welfare Philippines' rescued animals.

BOW & WOW benefit dinner dated June 30

RED Clarice 3-seater sofa with bench cushions

BLACK Classic accent armchair, inspired by the lounge chair and ottoman by Charles and Ray Eames

Modern vintage chairs undergo reinvention

TAUPE Cillian lounge chair, inspired by Le Corbusier's LC4 chaise lounge chair

RED Horton accent chair with ottoman

THE CHAIR has seen countless reinventions. Vintage chairs have become iconic, reminiscent of bygone eras and trends.

Taking inspiration from mid-century pieces such as the Tulip Chair, Egg Chair and Womb Chair, Chi Home has issued a collection of modern vintage accent chairs.

Timeless yet trendy, iconic yet innovative, the collection is available at Chi Home in SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia and SM North Edsa Interior Zone.

Designs may vary per store. Visit www.chihome.ph

RED Hinsdale accent chair, inspired by Eero Saarinen's 1946 Womb Chair

Unique exhibit by the Institute of Philippine Floral Techniques

THE INSTITUTE of Philippine Floral Techniques is the first floral design school in the Philippines, whose objective is to produce a generation of professional floral designers with the necessary technical knowledge to thrive in the floral industry.

As part of the course requirements, graduating students would have to fulfill a floral exhibit to showcase their skills and design style as floral designers.

The graduating students of Batch 6 had a three-day exhibit at the Podium mall, with the theme "Mother's Day at the Garden."

Students set up scenarios related to mothers such as a mother's garden, garden tea party, garden cocktail party, and a romantic dinner for Mom.

MOTHER'S Day exhibit at Podium features scenarios with themes related to moms.

Holcim and Picar Development Inc.: A partnership that breaks records.

Sylvia Le Cuil

Picar Development, Inc., the real estate arm of Vitarich group of companies, places its trust in Holcim to achieve a first like never before. Consistently striving for quality and excellence, projects being developed by Picar are extensively constructed with Holcim's landscaping and hand-in-hand contemporary lifestyle. These goals are manifested in the company's on-going developments, such as the Skyridge Residences which is set to become the tallest residential condominium in the country, a 70 storey building with a height of 210 meters. Bluebird residences is soon to debut either residential and commercial condominium unit, its strategic location convenience, constructions and trade, the building, one particular the stands out among the list.

Buddha-Bar, a chain of restaurant that caters to the socialites and celebrities all over the world, Buddha Bar first became well known for their collection of chill out and lounge music. In 1999, Buddha Bar 1 was released and has been regarded as one of the best chill out albums of all time. Before establishing one of the most extraordinary dining experiences in the country, Buddha Bar first opened its doors in Paris in 1996. Sylvie Le Cuil, General Manager of Buddha Bar Manila says that people do not only come for the food, wine or cocktails at Lounges and Asian flavors, but for the ambiance and of course, the music. "People are seeking the culture behind their cuisine, a good meal and lunch or dinner with their friends, we offer that more in Buddha Bar, and our atmosphere, which is something new and unique is what keeps them coming back," Ms. Le Cuil said. From cities like Rome, Paris, Dubai and all over the world, Buddha Bar is a place that inspires visitors back by wherever they are in the world.

Ms. Le Cuil shares the three most important elements of Buddha Bar: light, music, and food. He said, "Buddha Bar is more than just a fine dining restaurant where people go to eat, they can also lounge after and be given a mystical ambiance with a mix of intense design and lighting and of course the Buddha Bar music that is playing inside." According to Ms. Le Cuil, the main difference of Buddha Bar to it's atmosphere. "People can eat at 5- star restaurants, but they cannot find an ambiance as beautiful and tranquil as Buddha Bar" he added.

(CONT)

The perfect mixed lighting, rich mahogany furniture, Chinese and Japanese art objects, Khmer statues, decorated wood panels, lush teak and gold fabrics and Portuguese mosaic all come together to create an opulent and refined décor. The bar concession exhibit is enhanced by 2000 stemware style wine-glass rack suspended from over the dining area where the gigantic Buddha – the bar's namesake – sits serenely enthroned.

FOOD

A melding pot of Asian flavors and French technique, Buddha Bar's "fresh, fast" cuisine excites the Filipino palate. Buddha Bar offers an experience that tantalizes and delights all senses. Guests can expect a palace design, the charming of excellent meals, beautiful interiors, and a vibe that is very hospitable to customer's heart. Buddha Bar Manila starts serving lunch at (9pm) and dinner per persons. Customers can also enjoy Mimosa Happy hours during (PM to AM) (Monday to Saturday) and Ladies Night every Wednesday.

MUSIC

The Buddha Bar soundtrack, available in the boutique, cocktail and charming Lounge's Records has designed the perfect sounds to match the restaurant's ambiance. The disc-jockey performed by a dark brown wood booth, will have a global vision of the room and distill the music accordingly. The overall atmosphere is an eclectic mix of mood, lounge, and energy, perfectly in tune with guests and surroundings.

Buddha Bar which can comfortably accommodate up to 120 people, started construction six months before its opening date, of the decorations came from abroad, from the Bora Bora to the Australian, and even the biggest Chinese statue of Buddha which rests atop the balcony for the foundation, however, they only trusted makers. Given the massive design of the project, Picar development tapped Holcim to provide the concrete to be used in a project of this magnitude.

"This partnership shows our commitment to provide our customers with the solutions for their building needs. We understand that these types of projects have very specialized requirements so we ensure that we not only provide quality products, but also make sure our services are appreciated and valued", said Holcim Philippines Ltd./Island Cement Region Sales Manager Jaime Ong who has worked with Picar Development for other projects, and is committed to providing the same quality products and services for future developments.

For more information and inquiries on Buddha Bar Manila, please refer below:

100 years of Strength. Performance. Passion.

Holcim

Fernando B. Sena launches art class series

ARTIST FERNANDO B. Sena has announced his art workshop schedule. Classes will be held once a week at each of the venues.

On Saturdays, classes are at Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, 9-11:30 a.m., beginning June 23. On Sundays, sessions are at Triumph Building, Quezon Avenue, QC, 9:00-11:30 a.m., beginning June 24.

On Wednesdays, classes are at 23 Guevara corner Zamora Sts., Barangay Patlok, San Francisco del Monte, QC, 9:30-11:30 a.m., starting June 20. On Fridays, sessions are also at the Guevara venue, 2:30-5 p.m., beginning June 21.

Regular classes going on, fee is P4,000 for eight sessions. Call 3152196 or 0916-8659999, visit/ write facebook.com/fernando.senaofficial, www.fbsena.multiply.com.

Eric Poliquit styling workshops

After the successful pioneer run of his fashion styling workshops, celebrity fashion stylist Eric Poliquit, in collaboration with Ruffles Stirrings Institute Manila (RSIM), will hold regular workshops at RSIM's Bonifacio Global City Campus this July.

RSIM is an international design school offering courses in fashion design, fashion marketing and management, graphic design/visual communication, and interior design. RSIM is part of Ruffles Education Corp (REC), the largest private education group in the Asia-Pacific region. It currently operates 33 colleges in 30 cities across 13 countries.

"The workshop covers the fundamentals and allows students to explore fashion styling for different genres and media platforms," states Poliquit, who has styled for top fashion brands and celebrities such as Angel Locsin, Marian Rivera, Solenn Heussaff and Jaime Yap.

Students will also undergo hands-on training and actual photo shoots with professional models, photographers, and hair and makeup teams. To help jumpstart their exciting career in fashion, students will be provided with high-resolution, ready-to-print pictures to build their own professional portfolio by the end of the workshop.

With classes from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., the Saturday class will be on July 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug. 5 and 26. The Wednesday class is on on July 11, 18, 25; Aug. 1, 8 and 29. Workshop fee is P10,000 and only six students per class will be accommodated.

The workshops are open to students, professionals, photographers, fashion bloggers, fashionistas and anybody who has a passion for fashion.

Call 8462888; mail@rsimanila.com; www.rsimanila.com; www.ruffles-design-institute.com.ph

PILGRIMAGE ON THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF PUAT

From June 29-July 1, an overnight pilgrimage on the Feast of Our Lady of Puat will be organized at the Nativity Church, Subic. Built in 1753, this stone-baroque church is unique for its extensive use of hained clay, both for wall finishing and ornamentation. This church of stone with a cylindrical bell tower is the only one of its kind in the Philippines. Tour package is P4,000 per person. Call 70 (3744, 09 50 6031549, e-mail: ferd_trips77@yahoo.com.ph.

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HOME

Citibank promo

Citibank lets you purchase your child's back-to-school essentials in installment at 0 percent interest, when you shop at SM Department Store and Metro Gaisano outlets nationwide until July 15.

This deal is available under Citibank's 0 percent PayLite. Pay Later promo, which gives cardholders a bonus treat of deferring their first month installment after one month at SM Department Store.

The PayLite installment Plan is offered at SM Department Store for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P5,000.

At Metro Gaisano, cardholders can pay three months later or on the fourth statement date after their purchase. Avail of the promo with at least P15,000 worth of items.

Interested applicants must be at least 21 years old and have a valid Philippine billing address. Call tel. 8232000 or 8868888, visit www.citibank.com.ph.

'Choose Happiness' lecture

The Brahma Kumaris will discuss the truth about happiness through conversation and meditation experience during its 25th anniversary program, "Choose Happiness," on July 11, at 6:30 p.m., at the Topaz Ballroom, 4/F, Gateway Suites, Araneta Center, Cubao, QC.

Two resource speakers, who are experts on happy and contented living, will share their experiences on the topic.

Dr. Nirmala Kapur is a medical doctor, Raja Yoga meditation teacher for over 40 years, and director of the Brahma Kumaris centers in Australia, New Zealand and Asia-Pacific region. She believes that by adjusting one's mental outlook, the mind and body can regain their balance and the soul can find peace and happiness.

Dheeraj Nagy, international lecturer, motivational speaker, and director of the Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Centres in Australia, will share the power of meditation as a tool for maintaining mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

Limited seats available, exhibit attendance is July 9. Call 4164621, 09 5 0574247; e-mail at queenvillph.bkwsa.org

Love Yourself Hub opens in Manila

The Love Yourself Project, an advocacy group which aims to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, opens the Love Yourself Hub on July 9 at 1160 Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila.

The Love Yourself Hub will serve as a resource center aimed at increasing awareness, knowledge, counseling and prevention of sexually transmitted infections. It also addresses other sexuality related concerns, and serves the youth and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) groups.

One of the key programs is to conduct HIV counseling and testing with the support of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

The Love Yourself Project is the brainchild of Bedtex 'Shorty' Rosario 'Barce' of the "Pinoy Boyband Superstar" season 2 grand winner Kervin Garcia Pagtakhan. He was joined by friends who were inspired by Bee in creating demand and queries about STI, HIV, sexuality and gender in social media. Membership has since grown to almost 100 educators and counselors, and over 500 volunteers nationwide.

In line with the first anniversary of the Love Yourself Project, here are the schedule of activities:

- **July 6**—6 p.m., opening of the Love Yourself Hub with "How Do I Love Thee," a fundraising photo exhibit by Ian Feria Alquiros featuring photographs of male lovers in black and white.
- **July 11**—6 p.m., film showing: "Ang Sayaw ng Dalawang Kalimang Paa," winner of Best Picture, 36th Gawad Urian, starring Rocco Nacino and Paolo Avelino (Best Actor, 36th Gawad Urian), and a short film, "Bahaw Bonus," by Ron Genatiz and Judd Romulo.
- **July 21**—6 p.m., "Circle of Love," the Love Yourself anniversary party, to be held at SEB Manila. Special guest performers include La Chiquilla, Hong Kong's top drag performer Hotlegs; Soprano Geverly Salonga; and Orag one.

July 29—6 p.m., wellness demonstration conducted by Bay Leaf Spa on "Massage for Pleasure."

Aug. 5—6 p.m., "Top 10 Tips: Succeeding in the Corporate World for People Like Us," a forum conducted by Mr. Corporate Closet.

Visit www.loveyourself.ph or follow us on Facebook at /lovehimb.com/loveyourself.ph and Twitter @LoveYourself_ph.

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

No homework for kids—it will happen sooner than you think

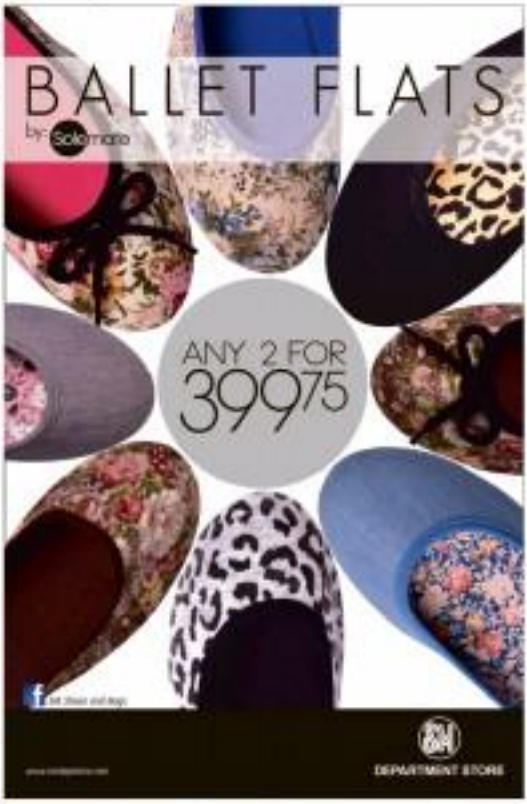
A new teaching method promises 'no more pencils, no more books' after school

By Wenson A. Machelle
Contributor

I F DepEd Sec plks classes succeed, the Department of Education may soon be sending home kids with no homework and plenty of time for parental bonding.

I was raised by parents who were trained to be public-school teachers by the American Thomasites, those pioneering educators who volunteered to sail to the Philippines to educate the Filipinos to fulfill America's "Manifest Destiny," a doctrine crafted by President William McKinley.

LOYOLA



THE GARDEN herbs captured in the colorful buffet spread and the lush view outside.

ORANGE layered cake is nestled in gold dust, pecan pie is topped with gold leaf, chocolate and vanilla cake is adorned with fresh cherries.

A TINY sip of H&M's with a candle tops the floral-patterned plate. Cute tea napkins with floral edging match the centerpiece.

HAPPY Liechtenstein, in a Burberry dress, poses with her savories and salads.

HUGE bouquets of roses on wooden vases fill the cabins.

DAUGHTER Lauren, in a Dolce and Gabbana dress, with dad Lee Liechtenstein.

Garden party evokes taste and style while bolstering civic pride

For the swearing-in of new officers of the Zonta Club in Alabang, Maymay Liechtenstein pulls out all stops

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

THERE'S ALWAYS a magical quality about the parties held in the plush of entrepreneur and civic leader Kathleen "Maymay" Liechtenstein.

For the induction of the officers and board members of Zonta Club Alabang, of which Maymay is new president, she chose a garden party in June' theme. The place was a haven of vibrant colors. The canapés and savors were ditched with huge bouquets of roses.

The tastefully buffet was a cornucopia of seasonal delights laid out on Lesley Barretto's table. Guarded vases, roses, cherries were juxtaposed with scrumptious food, some of which displayed on crystal platters. The dishes themselves became the décor. Grilled-dressed salads were presented in large glass containers—blueberry with bulgur and red cabbage dyed in blueberry, fennel couscous with peas, apricots and green-bean contacts, edamames with avocado, jicama, broccoli, red quinoa with sugar beets, cranberry, strawberry and basil, and kani fa with orange and squash.

Layered cakes of ube, sweet potato, sugar beets and herbs gave vegetarians a high. Crunchy baked balls laid on a bed of lemon almonds and green basil.

The stretch eggs were hard boiled quail eggs, wrapped in beets, ube, camote instead of the usual sausage, then coated with two shells, brioche and whole wheat crumbs and deep fried...Juicy turkey legs were prepared in the Liechtenstein style—sous vide or slowly cooked. Kalderas, which means beef cut, is also prepared sous vide while the baked chorizo, a baked like a casserole accompanying relish cheeses. As if it weren't enough, there were smoked salmon with sparkling rice and ham carrier with cherry English sauce.

Glittery Sweets

The sweets comprised the second half of the buffet...Albuquerque pies, Nanelle with ganache filling, Valhrona chocolate bitterso made of crepe batter that are rolled in cinnamon sugar and filled with cream and ricotta cheeses; classic pound cake topped with dried cherries, chum and sugar glaze; Russian paska with its mixings of pistachio, almonds, citrus and candied peel, banana's cheese; pudding cake with carrots and berries. The tricky toffee pudding was dripping with fresh cranberries.

Some desserts sparkled with edible, metallic dust. The chocolate torte with a pinnacle of strawberry on each layer was covered in glitter. The pecan pie was dusted in amber and bronze, the orange layered cake was catched in gold.

Lacy mantilla covered the tables. The plates were dressed with ornate details that mimicked the lace patterns but gossamer overlay provided a stark contrast to them. Each plate was adorned with a mini cup of M&M's with a rosette. They not only added color but ladies could entertain themselves by nibbling on them while listening to the proceedings of the meeting.

Not a sophisticated touch, edible rose petals from fairy were sprinkled on the table. Before the program, the members were given a sealed envelope containing a butterfly. It was such a surprise to open it and see a swarm of butterflies hovering the dining area.

Values-based

The officers and board members took their induction. Cristina Marie Asaro, vice president; Denise Mafosa, secretary; Victoria Dennison, treasurer; Carmela Francisco, communications director; Joanne Pedroza, Michelle Yu and Myrna Ahava as board members.

In her acceptance speech as Zonta Club Alabang's new president, Maymay talked about how she joined the Muntinlupa chapter and learned about humanitarian and community service. Six years ago, she pioneered the Alabang chapter with Bernie and Carmina.

"In Muntinlupa, where I joined originally, I realized it's about giving to the community with friends. I put up the Alabang chapter so that our friends could grow up together and we inspire more younger women to join," says Maymay.

Through the years, Zonta Club of Alabang has organized feeding programs, medical and dental missions, and raised funds for the indigent communities in Muntinlupa. Its annual income raised P1.9 million last year. The Zonta donated mammogram machines to the Capitol ng Alabang and embarked on a breast cancer awareness campaign. With Glaxo and the Department of Health in Muntinlupa, it provided nearly 3,000 Rx vaccines.

Maymay says the club doesn't want to give dole-outs. Most of these programs are values-based. With 800 Village children, the Zonta formed the Mothers for Antipolyo, Hubtuggan and Amorgoso programs where women and children are taught planning, harnessing and nutrition.

When Zonta donated 400 bicycles, the children were taught how to use the bicycle to take them to school and how to use it for their livelihood, such as selling vegetables on weekends. Sylvia Ferreira raised funds to buy helmets for their safety.

Fire in the belly

One of their heart-tugging projects is helping out a community that was displaced by "Ondoy." The parents have to find work for several days and leave the children in food for themselves. Zonta is collaborating with the Muntinlupa public school by giving children scholarships. In September, interior designer and art educator Bambi Mafosa-Esparcia will teach art together with self-esteem to the girls so as to keep them off the mean streets.

Economist Winnie Monsod was invited to deliver an inspirational talk, which was more like "putting fire in the belly." She talked about heroes who are usually ordinary people doing extraordinary advocacies and selfless service.

"Hahi na sa your seats," she quoted psychologist Philip Zimbardo as saying, "Showtime is the antidote to evil." She said people have the choice of being a perpetrator, being complacent of evil or taking an active stance. As an example, Monsod cited the National Movement for Free Elections, a nonpartisan group that serves as an election watchdog. During the snap elections in 1986, many women volunteered to guard the polls against cheating.

She then challenged the Zonta women to go beyond their conventional service and aim for achieving a higher purpose, such as maximizing good governance in Muntinlupa.

"When people say it's none of your business; stick to kids. You should answer, 'It's exactly is my business!'"

INDUCTION of the officers and board members of Zonta Club of Alabang at Maymay Liechtenstein's residence

WISHES Monsod's Kanto stories by the colorful dress code.

CREATIVE eggs presentation in tri-layered chocolate cake and raspberries

RUSSIAN paska, layered cream cake and roses delight the eye.

Lots of bonding time when kids come home . . .

From page D1

A favorite nursery rhyme I learned growing up with Antot-non-educated parents is this catchy little ditty:

"Throw a pouch, have a plum, have a stack of bubble gum

Teacher, teacher, don't be dumb, give me back my bubble gum

If she takes it don't you cry, just pack your books and say goodbye.

Monsieur pencils, au revoir books, au revoir teachers' dirty looks."

I was reminded of this rhyme as we unanimated last month to the Department of Education's controversial K to 12 program, designed to boldly throw us into the modern world of educated nations which have adopted the 12-year basic curriculum in contrast to our 10-year cycle.

The nursery rhyme was ignited from recollections of early childhood by an innovation being tested by a husband-and-wife team of educators, which has already won the prestigious Magsaysay Award.

Bernido system

Proponents say the teaching innovation, called Dynamic Learning Program (DLP), is not only an answer to endemic problems like lack of public school teachers and textbooks. It is a 21st-century teaching method that ironically does not rely on high technology.

Its surprising basic methodology: More teamwork, more lectures and, best of all, no homework. The new teaching technique has already produced many academics.

At least 137 public high schools in the provinces of Surigao, Negros Oriental, and Negros Occidental have adopted DLP as innovative teaching methodology developed by Christopher and Ma. Victoria Bernido, both physicists who earned the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2010 for a dynamic career change.

Local government units and education officials joined hands with the Bernidos and Smart Communications to pilot test DLP in Cagayan de Oro last year and early in the Bernidos' Central Visayas institutes Foundation (CVIF) in Jagna, Bohol province.

Bohol success

After a successful test run in Bohol, Gov Edgar Chatto has received Depēd's permission to adopt the Bernido DLP in all public high schools in the province this year.

This just-ended partnership between Depēd and a local government unit could serve as template for similar ventures. The additional financial requirement is shouldered by the province itself. If the learning assessments are achieved, a nationwide rollout may yet save the day for the monstrously-bloated K to 12 program.

"It's not a curriculum, it's a way of teaching," says Stephanie Orbino, a community partnership officer at Smart. "The traditional way is that the teachers will lecture for most of the time and then students participate in recitation, quizzes and homework."

"This time around, students learn on their own 80 percent of the time, (and) the teacher only needs to be in class 20 percent of the time," Orbino says.

Using DLP, students spend much time answering questions in worksheets based on the lessons their teachers discussed for only 15-30 minutes.

'Plain hard work'

No textbooks, notebooks or computers are needed—just pen and paper. Students may even write on the back of old notebooks. "It's plain hard work," says Smart public affairs chief Wen Isberto.

"And these self-driven students are the kind of students we need in the 21st century, students who can acquire new skills on their own," Isberto says. DLP is "a much less 21st-century method" that can work even "without textbooks or class rooms." It may be the one-saving innovation that K to 12 needs.

Interactive learning

At the heart of DLP is a technique called parallel learning. Teachers spend only a fifth of class hours lecturing to students. The rest of the time is for interactive learning, answering questions.

By the end of a school year, DLP students would have answered up to 6,000 questions in science, math, economics, history and other subjects.

Because so much work is done in class, the students have less assignments to do at home. The program also gives students a "strategic break" every Wednesday to focus on physical education, music and arts classes.

An additional DLP feature suited in the K to 12 program is that teachers can print and prepare the activity sheets for the whole year before classes start in June, using DLP modules. Even those who reach multiple classes may find it easy to follow the program.

High performers

Smart community officer Orbino says the 9,000 Cagayan de Oro high-school students who tried the DLP showed a "highly significant" improvement in their English, math and science tests in March 2012 compared to their test scores in June 2011.

These results explained the CVIF experience in Bohol, where the Bernidos first introduced the method. Since adopting the program in 2002, the school has consistently produced the highest examinees in the University of the Philippines College Admission Test (Upcat), considered one of the toughest college entrance exams in the country.

"It's very encouraging," Orbino says.

Learning is fly

Smart is supporting the Bernidos by reproducing DLP materials and training more school heads and teachers via teleconferencing and other high-tech methods.

Isberto says spreading DLP is Smart's first step in developing a generation of students born trained for e-learning. "Once you have these self-learning students gradually introduced to e-learning tools on top of the (DLP) system, these students will fly," he said. That is why Smart is so investing in their future.

'Contact time'

Accompanied by other officials on opening of classes last month, Education Secretary Armin Luistro observed in classrooms, shouted the rollers, and gave short lectures. DLP style as he made the rounds at Bagio Elementary School, Pinag-Isahan High School and Pasil National High School in Pasig City.

Rosalina Bendijo, Depēd officer in charge in Metro Manila, gave the good news that the number of computer schools which were forced to go on triple shifts had declined from 20 to 9 this year.

"By the time the construction of classrooms in those schools is complete, they no longer need to resort to having triple shifts," he said, resulting in teachers and students having more "contact time."

Coping

A veteran preschool teacher, Ruby Bumagsiwi, 52, expressed fears that the integrated curriculum and the additional four of school may be too much for the students. Lyears old in the average, to be able to grasp the concepts well.

In the past years, students in her kindergarten class came at 7:30 a.m. and left two hours later. Classes now start at 8 a.m. and end three hours later.

"When I learned that (authorities) were planning another hour into the kinder class, I asked myself 'what am I going to do with another hour?'" she said, smiling.

"From my experience, a child usually is attentive in class for one-and-a-half hours," she said. "After seven, they usually get ill if it comes to go home."

Under the DLP system, that is exactly what it's all about: More time at home with no homework.

The author is president of a management consultancy that specializes in transforming socioeconomic and technological trends into public policy and business strategy. e-mail: mcbc2000@gmail.com.

Eva S. Bernardo

MODERN MANNERS

Do's and don'ts for pregnant women

Wish them well—but don't touch their tummy

I HAD A lot of friends expecting now and they all share the same complaints. They have all asked me to write about etiquette regarding pregnant women, so here it goes:

Normal

The one thing people need to remember is that pregnant women are normal; they are just pregnant. Their eyes are still on their faces, so when talking to them, please make it a point to look at their eyes and not their stomach, or her first instinct. Their taste-buds branches. This is a common gripe among the pregnant women I know. All of a sudden, people think their eyes are elsewhere.

Another major irritant among pregnant women is that people—from affectionate to fleeting fancy—want to a while...hold their stomachs when they see them. The first person is a hand to the pregnancy bump. Please respect the personal space of pregnant women. Not only are they more sensitive emotionally, they also do not like people rummaging or touching their stomachs through out the day.

Question to avoid

Also, avoid questions like when are you don't to a girl or a boy? Simple need your good wishes and hope she is having a pleasant pregnancy. Then take the cue from the mommy to be and if she opens up regarding the sex of her pregnancy then you can begin to ask the usual questions. Remember that not everyone is open to revealing private aspects of themselves.

And just a final caveat, for those friends and relatives that are newly married or have bred children for some time, kindly respect their feelings as well. Oftentimes when a woman is unmarried, family gatherings turn into an inquisition as to when she will finally get married. Then when she finally does, it becomes an endless probing of when she will conceive. If a couple has been married for a while, there goes the endless questions of why there are no babies on the way.

As much as extended family members are only showing concern and love, it can't be overemphasized the pressure by the woman on the receiving end, so tread with sensitivity and caution.

The Year of the Dragon has, indeed, filled the maternity floors with beautiful newborns, let this serve as a short guide for etiquette regarding pregnant women and you'll find your pregnant friends and relatives thanking you in their hearts for it.

Vanishing receipts and cab driver complaints

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) has said receipts from authorized cash registers are acceptable as official proofs of transactions. But BIR should tell establishments to get machines that issue receipts that remain readable for a long time instead of those that fade off in a couple of weeks or so, leaving only a few black dots here and there.

You cannot even use the receipts if you want to join BIR's Promise on Receipts raffle because all the information required has disappeared. The problem gets worse if you need to avail of the "accessory on some appliances or gadget. You can hardly read when and where you bought the item.

I suggest that you ask for formal receipts where important information is handwritten if you need to show proof of purchase much later. Or you can do what people often do with hated men: nagag. As fanas sila: bale after a short while, they immediately make Xerox copies of, or scan important lines for their files.

Feedback

Last week's item on taxi drivers has gotten very interesting feedback.

Rose Christine Carpio says she has also been in taxis where drivers claim they are unable to issue receipts because the meter is out of paper. She says even drivers from reputable companies like Metro also use the same excuse.

Carpio says she tried to bring up this matter with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) but "the File a Complaint' page in its website does not seem to work. I know my complaint is petty compared to the other issues to our transportation industry, but I hope our government representatives will still be responsible."

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bohlo

Shelby Payne says he has brought his complaints about drivers' failure to use their meters or refusal to convey a passenger to his/her destination to the agency's traffic is bad or their meters don't work" to the Land Transportation Office (LTO), but, aside from hearing in person the LTO officer just re-shrink on the status of the complaint, the driver is let off the hook after saying a simple "Ok sorry, I won't do that again" or the latter's violation is "he said he said" since the passenger cannot offer any proof of the offense.

"Why can't MMDA (Metro Manila Development Authority) step in to help passengers take action against erring and rude drivers?"

Dreiss says there should be no excuse for the driver or a passenger, taxi cabs should be working properly, and passengers should get their change unless they want to keep the driver.

Bobby Dreiss offers information that is completely new to me. It seems the MCIC Taxi company has a policy to refuse passengers carrying fresh seafood. Dreiss says he found out about the policy when, coming from a grocery, an MCIC cab refused to take him to his destination because he had fresh meat and chicken in his shopping bags. Dreiss says he talked up the taxi company and talked up a Quezon Province, who said the policy applied to fresh seafood only.

Dreiss says he suggests to Bellhouse make sure their cabs have signs that make the policy clearly visible to passengers. I would add that MCIC cabs should not wait in line near supermarkets, groceries, and public markets if they are not supposed to carry fresh produce.

Dreiss also mentions that some cabs smell of smoke but driver claim the culprits are hard-headed passengers. If, indeed, passengers refuse to follow the no-smoking rule in public utility vehicles, what can drivers do? Will they get help from a policeman or traffic enforcer?

Speaking of smoking, I suggest that Makati Mayor Jun Binay assign smoking monitors, or whatever, in / Read near the Pasig Supermarket. Jeepney drivers and passengers seem to think Makati has suspended the smoking ban.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 7000 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makapilo and Ilaya Sts., 1204 Makati; fax 897-8700/892 or e-mail lbohlo@inquirer.com.ph.

WHIRLPOOL! Joy Cecilia Cruz, Francis Libiran, and Cinkie Lizarazo.

Appliance brand hosts Mother's Day event

CHEF Soheil Mirshani, Nicolas de Castro

WHIRLPOOL, THE manufacturer of home appliances, held "Because You Are a Whirlpool Mom", an afternoon of family-giving on Mother's Mothers Day.

"This is our way of celebrating Mother's Day by acknowledging loyal Whirlpool moms who have made Whirlpool products a part of their homes," said Joy Cecilia Cruz, marketing manager of Whirlpool in the Philippines.

During the event, Whirlpool moms, said Cruz, "received lots of free gifts and participating treats, listened to cooking demos, learned belly dancing exercises, plus they also got the chance to take home a brand-new Whirlpool refrigerator, microwave oven and washing machine among other exciting prizes."

"We want to make their lives easier and more convenient so they can have more quality time with their loved ones. For 100 years, Whirlpool has distinguished itself as a brand designed for families. This is in line with our commitment to them, as evidenced by our Dare Like Brandy' campaign."

"Our aim is to bring Whirlpool to every home not only here in the Philippines but also to the whole world. We want to bring ease and comfort to every family everywhere through our products," said Cruz.

International SOS Phils. partners with VP Binay for OFWs

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay and International SOS (PHILS) president Harold Pradel

INTERNATIONAL SOS, the world's leading medical and security services company, shared its vision to reach out to Filipino OFWs through no less than the champion of OFWs himself, Vice President Jejomar Binay C. Binay Sr.

Binay the Presidential Adviser for OFW Concerns, reiterated the government's commitment to uphold and protect the rights and welfare of Filipino workers at all possible costs.

International SOS (Phils.) president Harold Pradel, on his courtesy call to Binay, highlighted International SOS Phils' two priorities for the year: the complete medical and travel assistance for all OFWs, including their families, and the management of health and security risks of business travelers, leisure travelers and their partner community in the Philippines.

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Thinner, lighter, and said to be better

Samsung launches Series 9, the most portable of 15-inch notebooks

SAMSUNG'S 13-inch Series 9 Slim in hot pink

By Alec T. Vergara

THE PENINSULA MANILA'S Rigodon Ballroom in Makati was abuzz with excitement hours before the launch of Samsung's Series 9, touted as the thinnest (14.9 mm) and lightest (1.58 kg) 15-inch notebook in its category.

The excitement was understandable. Just days before, Apple introduced its latest MacBook Pro, which is supposedly its lighter and thinner MacBook Pro at .64 pounds and 15 mm thick.

But Eric Salit, Samsung's business unit director for IT, said the Korean brand has sent one Apple. "Ours is definitely thinner and lighter than theirs," he said.

In addition, Samsung is selling its new product at an introductory price of P56,990.

Salit earlier showed pie charts of local sales of IT products.

Based on his report, Samsung is the anticipated leader in both smartphone and PC categories in the Philippines. It achieved its dominance in just two years.

"Everybody was surprised," Salit said. "Our competitors and dealers didn't know we would grow that fast."

He attributes Samsung's success to its dealers who push the brand because it offers "superior" products.

"Our dealers and customers attest to the superiority of our products in terms of quality," said Salit. "The main reason for this is we have our own factory. Whereas our competitors outsource and source their components from the cheapest vendors, we build our own components in China. Samsung also builds its own components."

For those on a tighter budget, particularly students and self-employed professionals, the brand offers the Samsung 13-inch Series 5 Slim At P39,500 a unit. It's cheaper and more handy alternative to most laptops on the market. Unlike the Series 9, which comes initially in matte silver, the Series 5 is in hot pink and mocha brown.

The small but powerful Series 5 runs on 64bit low voltage A6 CPU, which enables it to marry "performance with great graphics featuring 576MG discrete class graphics."

Apart from the quality of its products, Samsung hopes to future success on the power of "convergence," a win-win development for the brand and its growing market. Convergence refers to the way devices work together seamlessly to raise the value and functionality of these devices as they work in one "ecosystem."

To illustrate its point, Samsung set up two display stations consisting of two monitors connected to gadgets—from laptops

THOMSON DI

ANGELES CEBU DAVAO MAKATI MANDALUYONG MANILA MUNTINLUPA PASAY QUEZON CITY

AMBASSADOR Joey Acuzar, Robbie Antonio, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez

OSCAR Hilado, Manuel Sy Gaite, Mike Tan, Chi's Pe

TRADE Secretary Gregory Domingo, Transportation and Communications Secretary Manuel Mendez II, Peter Cosmos, President Aquino, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Energy Secretary Rene Almendras

P-Noy meets Ivy League-trained executives

PRESIDENT Aquino with Filipino alumni of top US universities: Tagaig City Councilor Arcelie Paulo Bartolome (Northwestern/Kellogg); Transportation and Communications Undersecretary Rene Limcaoco (Stanford); PCSO Chair Anselmo Simeon Pinpin (Harvard); Peter Cosmos (University of Pennsylvania/Wharton); Felipe Estrella III (Columbia); Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez (Cornell); Gerardo Berthiaume (MIT)

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex van Hagen
powered by **VOICE MAC** camera

Some dimensions of energy, Jesse Robredo of the interior and local government, and Leng Demaisip of trade and industry.

Now, here's that bit not reminding-you, redesigned.

In his speech, President Aquino tackled numerous related to-energy, public-private partnerships (PPPs), the economy, upgraded stock market indices, and transparency in government. He took note of the upturn in the both local and international business sentiments owing to the government's pursuit of political integrity, accountability in use of public funds, conditional cash transfer and infrastructure development.

President Aquino answered questions on the power situation in Mindanao, PPP projects, freedom of speech, among others.

"In a little over four years, I will be stepping down as your president," he said. "The only thing I want out of this position is to leave the country in a far better state than when I inherited, with a government un-shackled from corruption and dishonesty, with a steadily growing economy that leaves no one behind, and with an empowered and engaged citizenry, much like yourselves, ready to take on the task of nation-building together. We certain there are good days and all days.

"And we will achieve this. With a government that knows what it means to serve the public, with excellent men and women like you, who know about advancing dreams with the Filipino people, who have for so many years kept their hopes of a better country alive—we can pursue and fulfill our collective aspirations for this country. Let's continue to work together, and continue to believe in what this country can do. Let's make the Philippines into what we all dream it to be: a country of potential fulfilled."

The event was hosted by Shu Hai Ch, chairman of Harvard, and Helen Gimenez, treasurer of Pilipinos Won Alumni Association Inc.

It was a great day to inhibit the dynamism of young players all under one roof, challenge.

New KLM flights

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines held a top high-tea affair to announce its summer schedule for Dr Cha-Ha Quinsara, Greenbelt 3, Makati.

Welcoming the guests were the Prince KLM Gerhard GM, Gaye Ermon, commercial director Rolla Cardoni and Philippine service manager Rona Bonsocal.

"KLM now flies nightly between Manila and Amsterdam with an intermediate stop without changing engineers in Taipei," said Ermon. "With this new schedule KLM continues to offer a single flight from Manila all the way to Amsterdam by departure from Manila, then a brief stopover in Taipei, letting our passengers arrive in Amsterdam at 6:20 a.m. the same morning, allowing those multiple flight possibilities to their final destination in mind Europe."

KLM is also launching SkyPriority, a series of easily identifiable, super-based, priority service for passengers of SkyTeam airlines. Most Elite, Business Class and SkyTeam Elite Plus members—including Flying Blue Platinum and Gold members—will qualify for SkyPriority, meaning the service will be available at over 220 airports around the world when you fly KLM and its Partners.

"This new route is a brilliant move in KLM's 85 years of uninterrupted operations in the Philippines," Madame Cardoni told us. "Flights will be operated on a Boeing 777-200 ER which will be no change in planes during the entire medium stop in Taipei."

(Ang ELITE flight KLM86 is ready for boarding, pahanggan.

(More info? Call Phil. Makati: 8886000; 8958-8686555; e-mail: www.cebupacific.com.)

Pizza afternoon

I just love making my own pizza toppings, and that's exactly what happened during the "Make Your Own Pizza" happening organized by Ana Cuenca, Bellaire at its Rockwell Power Center Mall Dining 777-2288 Shots.

The in-demand Italian restaurant has made its way from Boracay to our town, dishing, with its renowned chef Medico Leonardo, its special wood-fire oven and signature pizza, lunch.

Cooperate Rizzuto Antonio Elizalde stayed guests to combo of the food. And before you could bat an eyelash the platters assembled the yummy appetizers, my favorite tuna-a-peak, the delightful combination of arugula, sun-dried, feta cheese and pine nuts drizzled with balsamic vinegar.

Then there was a talk on the "philosophy of Italian food." Chef Nicolas explained "It starts with the ingredients; and how to choose them. You have to save when you make the dough while following the procedures, all the way to when you get the pizza in a good bake. Only for seven single trips—this is the secret to making the best pizza."

Pizza was the big star of the afternoon, pairings. Lists, you headed out to do my most delicious walking.

(More info? Call 892-9111, visit or find: http://www.facebook.com/AyalaLandBellaireAyalaTriangleGardens or Twitter.)

JOANNE Rosario, Maricres Bermudez, Fortune Ledesma, Hendrik Ng

JULIE Gudoy, Cara Uruma and baby release Adrian Carlo Velasco of Tremble Magazine

AIR FRANCE KLM Vice South China Sea boss, Pascal de Boer, QM Cara Uruma and commercial director Julie Gudoy

AF-KLM Philippines corporate account manager Pam Reyes, travel undersecretary Ricky Isaga, marketing and communications executive Tess Zaldivia, QM Cara Uruma, brand ambassador Patricia Ledesma, Julie Gudoy

AF-KLM account manager Paolo Miranda and Howard de Boer

REGIA Lawmanaging director Nick Tuason and AF-KLM service manager Jean Donovan

KETWILLEN Navarro, Lifestyle Asia's Anna Sobrepena

CHES Uruma, Maureen Carranza

ABIA's chef Matteo Leonardo shows the right way of making spinza

ABIA's Jean Elizalde and Bianca Arizaga Elizalde

ALFIE Ip ABC Pablo Asiaticus' Garcia Ortiz, Michael Chuah, Chebi Tuboi

MARCO Stampon, Hendrik Ng

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MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK — BY MARA COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES CORAZON

THIS DAY'S THEME This is very promotion of your kingdom. You take care of your loved ones. You have a personal relationship and caring sometimes. You overcome some challenges, but you're an overall overachiever. Chronic flirtation is taboo. You always work tirelessly and steadily toward your goals. On the professional, promotions and other forms of status will be very important to you.

Birthdays of the Day: Demi Moore (American actress); grandmaster Anatoly Karpov, active businessman Isabelle Daza (Filipino).

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with other today, because the other person is appreciative and kept. Expect some a little to be more comfortable.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It will please you to see your professional approval at home and at work today. Get some recognition for your efforts. Your family is very proud of you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) There's a playful feel good day. Love could blossom. Romantic fantasies, sports and good times are endless.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Conversations with a pal across a hotel shows could be significant today. You'll be working down twice as much as usual. It's no use because it is. (You need to eat.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Don't take conversations with others, dealing and selling, plan things around it and keep your options open. Your intuition is right on target.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Your focus on work time, meetings and presentations could benefit you today. Try one last month, which you like, and what you see. Be open to opportunities in something.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Because the Moon is in your sign today, you might feel a bit unconventional than usual. However, this also brings you a little bit of extra good luck, too!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You'll be pleased to work alone or behind the scenes today, because you feel a strong need for privacy. At least, you might decide on a few secrets!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A conversation with someone you've been talking with about love can take a turn for the better today. Take your time, be cautious, and you'll have a better chance of success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Romantic passions and thrills could play today. In fact, it's likely that they will lead to some embarrassment or worry. Work alone — and not in public.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You're feeling different today. So, sometimes you're more keen to express yourself or share a creativity your desire for attention and friendship.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Discussions with others could cause some misunderstandings today. Be sure to express yourself in a way that is easy to understand. Perhaps you can make this a win-win situation.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dan Gorski

			5	6	8			
		4				7		
		3				1		
	8	7	1	3	9	6	2	
	3						5	
	6			2			1	
	1			5			6	
	9						7	
		5	6	7	1	9		

Medium ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

SAMSUNG'S IT business adviser James Kenny, SC Park and Samsung's business unit director FF Eric Sohl lead in launching Samsung's latest gadgets.

JAMES Kenny, SC Park, Alex Vergara, Dr. Vicki Belo, Cuke Villegas and Eric Sohl during launch of Samsung's newest slim laptops at Peninsula Manila's Pagoda Ballroom

GUILT shows how light and slim Samsung's Series 9 notebook is.

Thinner, lighter . . .

From page B1

to smartphones, tablets to digital cameras, desktops to printers.

Sohl said he and his team were unable to do away with wires because the National Telecommunications Commission had yet to approve the brand's wireless version of similar product lines.)

"We call it convergence because it seamlessly connects everyday IT products like the monitor and printer with your smartphone, tablet and PC," said Sohl. "These products are valuable in themselves, but because of convergence, their value and functionality have increased tremendously."

The best part about the system is its compatibility with most digital products produced by other brands. Samsung is that secure, it has no-problem-handling system that can easily interface with its rivals.

Sohl summarizes this strength—"If you look at the products individually, there are a lot of specific features that make them more superior to those offered by our competitors. You end up getting more out of your investment."

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Concertus stages 'Potted Potter'

THE MOST GEEK and New York-smash hit "Potted Potter" opens at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, NDRC Pilipinas, Ayala Ave., Makati City, on Aug. 30 and will play only 30 shows until Sept. 2. Tickets are on sale now.

"Potted Potter" (full title: Dr. "Potted Potter: The Unauthorized Harry Experience—A Parody by Dan and Jeff") takes on the ultimate challenge of condensing all seven Harry Potter books (and a wee little game of Quidditch) into 70 hilarious minutes. This 2012 Olivier Award-nominee for Best Theatre Revival and Family Show features all your favorite characters, a special appearance from a fire-breathing dragon, fantastic costumes, catchy songs, ridiculous props and a generous helping of Hogwarts magic.

Co-writers/co-stars double Olivier Award-nominated entertainment moguls Daniel Clarkson and Jefferson Turner, the show is a must-see for Potter addicts and a great introduction to the series for anyone who's ever wondered what all the fuss is about.

Clarkson and Turner first created "Potted Potter" in 2005 for an appearance at London bookshop, as a five-minute entertainment for fans awaiting the release of the sixth book in the series. The show grew from there into a full-length stage production, first seen at the Edinburgh Fringe festival 2006, and has since toured internationally.

Ticket prices: Orchestra P1,000; Lodge P1,875. Balcony P888. Family packages available. Call 891 0999, 833 8618, 0917-53-TICKS, e-mail tickets@concertusentertainment.com; visit www.facebook.com/tickets4concerts, www.ticketworld.com.ph.

'KaSALAn' one-act plays

The Philippine Cinema Company Gala Theatre opens its 27th season with "kaSALAn," a production that showcases two one-act plays—"Parlok Lugar" and "Dahlia" (a detail, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., at the Arena Room, Gala Theatre, at 46 Stella Maris St., Dr. Kapahan, Pasig).

"Parlok Lugar" is C. Rubillo's adaptation of Anton Chekhov's "The Marriage Proposal." It shows a day in the life of Kidang, the mayor of the seaside Don Sabino, whose rough-spoken daughter Sita is being pursued by Kadlo, a sickly bachelor. It is directed by Sol Gaddia and stars Mona Caysido, Jake Macandog, Carl Valderrama and Sure Lim.

"Dahlia" by Anak, "written by Juliana Cruz Reyes," is about the wealthy Don Antonio, who's against his son Manuel's marriage to Rita, a bandmaster's daughter, despite the couple already having a child. Manuel seeks help from his wise uncle Don Cristobal and Rita's strong-willed aunt Ming Sotero.

The play is directed by Kenn Caysido and stars Sonny Sacaza, Claude Encarnacion, Gaby Castillo, LA Caguioa, Chrissie Legaspi, Kris Cristian and Pocak David.

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TATTOO CONTINUES TO RULE PHILIPPINE BROADBAND MARKET

Tattoo, the flagship broadband brand of Globe Telecom, continues to dominate the Philippine market, making it the undisputed Number One broadband. This is reflected in the consistent annual double-digit growth of its subscriber base and service revenues for the past five years.

From 2007 to 2011, Tattoo, which carries the consumer broadband business of Globe, has grown by an average of 39% per year in number of subscribers, and 30% per year in service revenues, surpassing the comparable average growth rates of its nearest competitor by the same period. The figures are sourced from company disclosures to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for the period 2007-2011.

The broadband business of Globe has likewise posted 20 consecutive quarters of solid growth with an average quarterly growth rate of 17% for both subscriber base and service revenues.

"The powerful imagery, compelling offers and superior performance have resonated well with consumers. Tattoo has proven itself as the broadband with the superior performance compared to competitors in speed, reliability and value-for-money offers," says Nikko Asedas, Consumer Broadband Business Head of Globe Telecom. "With the network upgrades we have in progress right now, you can bet that Tattoo will become the broadband choice for the best internet experience."

A network test study of prepaid broadband tests conducted by The Nielsen Company (Philippines), Inc. ("Nielsen") shows that amongst the surveyed households, Tattoo outperformed the key competing brands in the prepaid mobile broadband segment in select measures for speed and reliability. The measures included page downloading speed and success rates as well as page loading success rate.

Part of the massive $100-billion telecom modernization program of Globe includes the increase in 2G telecommunications coverage, a 5-fold increase in data capacity, and the rollout of an additional 10,000 kilometers of fiber optic cables to enhance internet speeds and service reliability.

"At the end of the day, it's the consumers' actual experience that matters. Being its competitors, Tattoo has demonstrated better speed and reliability, which is underscored by the strongly preferential take-up of our wide array of offers," Asedas added.

Tattoo Wireless, the head-home broadband brand of Globe, is also in the think of a massive, multi-year modernization program that aims to level up its Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) services nationwide. Tattoo Wireless also maintains one of the largest Wi-Fi networks in the country, with over 6,000 Wi-Fi access points deployments in the region.

Tattoo Wireless prides itself in providing the best-value plans with freebies and discounts exclusively available to its subscribers as well as the best-value landline-plus-internet bundles, which subscribers get to enjoy unlimited broadband speeds without paying separately for a landline connection. Tattoo Wireless is also the first and only broadband brand that allows customers to load their surfing speeds and get online using promotion measures for responsible internet usage – especially for their children. The Tattoo Wireless Parental Control (PC) service, called Tattoo Tribune, the latest internet connection available in the country today and one of the fastest anywhere in the world, bring the "breathtaking" experience of Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON). Tattoo Tribune offers speeds of up to 100 Mbps.

Meanwhile, Tattoo Homepro is the first to offer customizable plans, with options to bundle surfing speeds up to 20 Mbps. Tattoo is also the first to offer prepaid Wireless Internet access – Tattoo Prepaid – for Tattoo Tribune and Tattoo Skybox, which comes bundled with unique offers and freebies to match a myriad of internet usage habits. Tattoo prepaid offers include Tattoo Sports, the best-in-value 3G broadband deal; Tattoo All-Youth and the Tattoo All-Superstick, a personal WiFi device. Tattoo also launched go-online, lifestyle portal, www.thetattoo.ph, which gives all Tattoo subscribers exclusive discounts, perks and freebies that make their passion.

In another announcement milestone, Tattoo Homepro scaled competition by opening our sixth unique Tattoo store (Apple's new iPad), which marries the cutting-edge features of the revolutionary tablet with the exclusive Tattoo value-added offers packed with discounts and privileges from www.tattoo.ph.

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LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Pacita Abad's Boston and Batanes /F2

Why this luxury hotel is drawing intriguing curiosity in HK /F3

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Pacita Abad's Boston and Batanes

The Ivatan stone houses prove that heritage conservation can be done—with the right governance

By Winnie L. Pinlac
Contributor

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS —Pacita Abad, the internationally acclaimed artist from Batanes, was in Boston with husband Jack Gantly when we came visiting for the summer. Her first, Pacita and my wife Noreen, schoolmates at the University of the Philippines, had a lot of catching up to do.

Pacita insisted that no less than a weekend would suffice. So when in Boston, we did what proper Bostonians do: a walking tour of Boston Common, a side trip to the museums, and, of course, an obligatory visit to the Kennedy Library, which was a delightful surprise for a bookworm like me.

By this time, Pacita had earned a name in the art world with Batanes influenced by whatever her economist husband's book-employer assigned him to: Iran and Pacita followed suit; we had a lot of catching up to do. But wherever in the world Pacita might be, her thoughts always turned to her favorite topic: her home province of Batanes.

I had been to Batanes once, and had delighted in taking pictures of the Ivatan stone houses. They were also Pacita's favorite spots, especially their innovation and preservation as historical sites. She would have been glad to know that it is happening now; the Ivatan stone houses have been designated cultural heritage sites.

CHAMPION: Despite her illness and that Pacita loved so dearly, she encouraged her granddaughters to persevere. She put them on display at her studio, one open to the public.

Rising from the rubble

As if typhoons and visual assaults were not enough torment, a massive 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck the province of Batanes, north of Luzon near the southern Chinese border, on July 16, 2000.

Many of its centuries-old Ivatan stone houses fell in a rubble for man to ride ground.

It is a demonstration of how the Ivatans quick one. Literally rise from the rubble, Architect Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, Pacita's brother, took the opportunity to combine the University of the Philippines School of Architecture to rebuild the massive stone houses that were strong enough to withstand typhoons, but not earthquakes.

That began a labor of love by a group of contemporary architects who are in the art, but a chance to also study Ivatan architecture up close and personal. Many houses were rebuilt from the ground up, literally stone by stone.

But the initiative took more than architectural drawings. The architects soon found that rebuilding the houses was the easy part. Mobilizing the local government, political will and motivating resident enthusiasm would take much more than architecture and technology.

Governance lesson

That was from an experiment in local governance management that was praised recently as a case study of the University of Makati's joint Green Urban Design Workshop with the UP Kinaadman School of Architecture for graduate students and local barangay officials.

The two-country workshop was conceived as a living example of how local governance initiatives can be harnessed to mobilize political will for urban renewal and conservation.

The workshop was a joint project of the U.S. Asia's School of Public Policy and Governance, the Primordial Institute of Local Governance, and 10 if fund-raising efforts were successful, five barangay officials and graduate students were to visit Singapore to look at urban development projects considered state of the art. The joint project was headed by architect Raymond Chui of UP and Raymund Rosario of U. Mati.

Indigenous resources

The Ivatan conservation project became a model for mobilizing indigenous resources in projects of the kind. The conservation team was headed by architects Joven Iguiron and included UP's Gemma V. Tumlos.

The Ivatan experience was chronicled in a book, available at the UP School of Architecture. It details the architectural challenges of the project, but, more importantly, recognized the local governance implications.

The work has been presented to five countries, which includes Taiwan, which has an Ivatan community that speaks a similar dialect.

Rare heritage

To withstand typhoons, the Ivatan stone houses spanned six 0-wide walls on the side facing the wind. Thatched roofing was built up in three-foot climbs to resist rain.

Secretary Abad is more fond of the Ivatan stone houses, which are a rare heritage of Batanes province. He is now a consultant to the Asian Development Bank.

Pacita Abad's brother, Florencio "Butch" Abad, is the architect who led the restoration of the Ivatan stone houses in Batanes province.

A renowned sibling, the late Pacita Abad, not only sought her celebrated indigenous influences of Africa and Asia in her Multicolor-like paintings. She still be well-planned with this effort to preserve the Ivatan heritage she loved so dearly.

Fundacion Pacita, a vacation lodge that was formerly Pacita Abad's home studio, was lovingly refurbished by Butch Abad in honor of his memory.

Homegrown at JFK

During the visit to the Kennedy Library, Butch took us to where the Kennedys had made room for friend Hemingway's manuscripts. The late President Kennedy was a Hemingway fan and named for quoting the author's definition of courage in his speech, or, "grace under pressure."

Our whirlwind weekend was capped by a Sunday brunch at Boston Harbor for the mandatory clam chowder. You have not tasted clam chowder until you have tasted the original in Boston.

It takes room for heaping servings of the chowder, we opted for a light salad and cold dish (crab, which was in season. Our Bostonian friends said there is only a 40-hour window when those crabs molt. Island diets shell to greenhorns, I said the more we learn. We never lucky to have a taste of this renowned New England delicacy.

Recreating memories

As we are wont to do, we try to preserve those warm memories by which by recreating the dishes back home in our kitchen. This we then the memories with friends who come over for intimate dinners.

We call this Pacita's Bohemian Brunch: Ivatan salad, Boston Clam Chowder and Steamed Crabs a la Batanes.

Where crabs are hard to find, panoramic captures the flavors of the sea just as well. As with beef green salad, we make a dressing of corn oil and the juice from a calamansi lemon to spritz up the palate.

For side dishes, we sautéed potato wedges (last time) were seasoned with salt, pepper and dried basil. We fry till golden brown in corn oil, which gives the potatoes more flavor. Steamed carrots, which coat butter and lemon will color, crunchiness and texture.

Whenever we host Ivatan clam chowder, our thoughts turn to Pacita. We never forget that weekend in Boston, her dominant talent and her enduring friendship. We will never forget Pacita's Boston and Batanes.

COOP Art Gallery

WEAVER'S Museum

The author is an international and consultant who writes

BEST OF CLASS

Why this luxury hotel is drawing intriguing curiosity in HK

Its design blends natural materials, original sculpture, perfectly proportioned spaces to create the feel of a modern Asian home. And–it is 'paperless,' with WiFi in the car

By Maja Oliveira-Go
Lifestyle Editor

APPROACHING the Upper House in Hong Kong many through a stone doorway façade evokes the image of a curtain being opened to welcome guests to a private residence. A subtle lit driveway then leads to a dramatic 12.6m high recessed sliced front door, enveloped by floor-to-ceiling glass walls that appear to sit on pools of water.

Past the entrance, a circular bamboo reception, the "Lantern," with walls lined with bespoke lamps, leads to an escalator toward Level 6. This is meant to control sunlight, balancing the "Lantern," which grazed scenes.

The hotel has 117 spacious guest rooms, each designed to provide a sense of understated luxury. The contemporary monochromatic design features natural timber, sleek glass, limestone and incorporated paper panels.

All rooms are presented in five color schemes: "Bamboo," with solid ash flooring, bamboo timber and blue upholstery; and "Celadon," featuring green tea upholstery, lime oak flooring and celadon oak finishes.

Natural materials, original sculptures installations and perfectly proportioned spaces are integrated to create a sophisticated and modern "Asian-influenced" residence.

"With an intention to create a small luxury hotel reminiscent of a private residence, I have purposely conjured a sense of tranquility throughout the design and ambience of the hotel," said Andre Fu, the interior designer.

The standard room is 70 sq m, but its sheer size a luxury in itself. Unimpeded luxury hotels offer anywhere from 40 to 55 sq m.

The planning is open but discreet. The bathroom is particular, at 50 sq m, is open but fine tuned: an exquisitely angled stud partitioned so that one can theoretically go about bathing without the feeling of being on display. Very modern and open but with an "Asian sense of propriety."

Every room has panoramic views of the Hong Kong harbor or of the island.

Intriguing

The highlight is Level 49, which showcases the architecturally intriguing Sky Bridge, infused with a daylight above a 42-metre-high atrium, the Sky Bridge leads to Sky Lounge and the signature restaurant-bar Café Gray Deluxe.

The warm and inviting Sky Lounge, with atmospheric fireplace, serves drinks and cocktails throughout the day. Intimate soda seating in soft hues of green tea and mineral blue complements the four-metre high ceiling.

Café Gray Deluxe, a 21st-century grand café overlooking Victoria Harbour, marks the return of celebrated chef Gray Kunz to Hong Kong.

The main dining room, seating approximately 100, offers spectacular panoramic views. Semi-private dining areas are designed with full views of the open kitchen station. A private room for 12 is available for exclusive/indoor entertaining.

The bar and lounge, seating 88, is contemporary and vibrant. The vibrant restaurant is highlighted by a 14-metre-long open kitchen and equally long bar.

Kunz's deeply rooted background from the East and West provides a menu offering that is cross-cultural and inspired. Dishes are carefully created combining sensibilities from both sides of the world.

MAIN entrance

TYPICAL

TYPICAL stand-alone room

ESCALATOR from main entrance to Level 6

sentiments, with an accent on local organic produce.

Some favorites: pan-roasted black cod and olive oil mashed; charred peppers with green olive vinaigrette; barbecued Iberico porkchop with tamarind glaze, pea shoots, baby turnips and jus; chewy monk lobster; rice flake crusted tiger prawn; cold cured roast organic chicken; bruschetta of white asparagus fresh morels; and braised beef cheeks over leek-pancetta mashed with lobster nerves and parsnips and madeira sauce.

The breakfast is amazing, as global and all done to perfection, from the smooth eggs benedict to the asian offerings.

Americano Dinner Venture Cheung is chef sommelier at Café Gray Deluxe.

Some of chef Gray's dishes present a unique challenge to wine pairings. But Cheung's Western and Asian experience assures one of the most balanced pairings.

The wine list is extensive from mainstage to high, from Old and New Worlds, from award-winning Chateaux's to small artisan wineries. Especially extensive are the wine offerings of Sauvignon Blancs, Rieslings, Chardonnays.

I loved class diry curried my regular Sidecars, Sour and Jacqueline bubbles. I wish they had Belaventos since Italian is not exactly in my price range. I was pleasantly surprised they carried Veuve Boutland Indianapolis, which is a single vineyard grape produced by a young artist-maiden. Not easy to source.

Luxurious

Upper House is perhaps because it is a luxurious home away from home that provides a characterful experience for travelers who seek individuality, style and personalized service. Within 24 hours of checking in, every one seems to know your name. The staff is friendly, attentive and energetic but not suffocating.

Upon arrival, you are welcomed by a "paperless" arrival system. You don't check in at the reception, you can actually check in anywhere in the hotel ... your room, the mall, the lawn ...

The one-stop Guest Experiences team organizes the traditional hotel reception counters, provide services such as concierge, guest relations, bell and cashiering at any location throughout the hotel via iPad.

Before arrival, all guests are contacted by a designated member of the team who ensures all requirements and preferences are confirmed in time for arrival.

Express departure is a feature that enables guests to leave without the usual formalities. Copies of guest bills, with final credit card settlement, are e-mailed on the day of departure.

WiFi in the car

The Upper House is aware of the importance in this digital age to keep guests connected and provides complimentary wired and wireless high-speed Internet in guest rooms and public areas.

To complement with the hotel's principles to ensure guests' "carbon footprint" while remaining connected at all times, the hotel's energy-saving Lexus RX450h hybrid cars are equipped with complimentary WiFi on-board, ideal for business and leisure travelers on the move. The WiFi has uninterrupted connection to the car's navigation.

And just when you thought the indoor hotel experience was spread enough, go visit The Lawn. It is the outdoor garden on Level 6. Guests can enjoy cocktails and snacks in lush green surroundings, for a relaxing respite under the Hong Kong skyline and sky. For a "bespoke 'Eat & Retreat'," in-house space in Hong Kong is a rare commodity. The Lawn is your modern day "Secret Garden."

Details

- The Upper House is located conveniently within Pacific Place in Admiralty.
- The hotel has 117 rooms (72-88 sq m) featuring some harbor or island views, including 21 suites (117 sq m) and apartments (182 sq m).
- It is owned and managed by Swire Hotels, with access to major intriguing cities and hubs including Hong Kong, Mainland China and the UK.
- Check out the Summer Retreat package that runs until August 2012.
- It's a no-smoking hotel.
- At Upper House, a unique iPad touch gives access to room dining, local area information, weather, tours and bookings in terms at the touch of a screen, replacing printed hotel directories.
- Cathay Pacific and Dragonair were the first Asian airlines to introduce a carbon offset campaign in 2007, offering the offsets on an opt-in basis to passengers wishing to offset their carbon emissions. By choosing to Fly Greener, passengers can help play a role in reducing their CO2 emissions generated from air travel by making a voluntary contribution to each to Asia Miles. Proceeds are used to support environmental projects that reduce or prevent carbon emissions. For more information, contact Michelle Lo, public relations manager, (852) 2802 6373, e-mail michellelo@hongkong.com, or Marcel Thomas, front manager, e-mail MarcelThomas@hongkong.com. Visit www.upperhouse.com

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Marvin's play list

On Twitter, actor Marvin Agustin described "Snow" as a "feel-good and sincere" film, and its Oscar-winning theme song "Falling Slowly" as "beautiful." "Watching it was a "nice way to start my weekend," he said. The next weekend on his play list was "Sin-Loaded." He also loves watching the action-packed drama series "Homeland." "It's so tantalizing. Claire Danes is good here."

Abigail Kae Bilgar Jr.

HEARD

SNAPPED

FOR DAD, PARA SA PINOY

Eric, left, and Eze Quizon with a torpedo of their dad at the Tri-Filipino-American International Book Fair in San Francisco last October, promoting Dolphy's biography, "Hindi Ka Isa Nanating Mag-isa." See Page G3.

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Cristy Fermin on Ruffa's quitting

CRISTY FERMIN is like a mother to all of us on the TV5 show "Papuntahin." It was only proper that I ask her on the raging issue of Ruffa Gutierrez's quitting the program. Here's what Tita Cristy said:

"Sinagupaan kami ni (the supposedly offending question) ng staff nay Ruffa, tinatanong ng reporter ang mga nalilitson ng programang gusto nilang malaman ang mga papunta. "Eto ang dahilan kung bakit ang tweet ni Ruffa hugis magpalusak ang regalong na-orderang nakakol na raw siya kung ano-ano ang lumalabas sa kanya at 'Ito kaya ng Pahu?'...

"Tinitag doon'ng mga komunidad ang nakatanggap ng 'Papuntahin.' Ang unang personalidad ay si Mr. Gandang Lalaki, interviewed ng si Jun Matos, dahil si Arnell Ignacio. Hinding-sinagkahan ni Arnel ang anuhang gusto ng 'Papuntahin' ng nakatanggap kahapon.

"Dahil nasa Kuwait ito, I saw si Arnell at Ann't nakatanggap ng pambahoras. Sabi ni Arnel, 'Ate, ako ang nagbigay ng pambahoras sa kanya.' Kaya para sa kanyang pabor."

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Nagsalita naman si Ruffa sa kanyang pagkakaalis sa show. Ayon sa kanya, "Nagsawa na ako sa mga kwentong ganun. Ang gusto ko ay 'Papuntahin' ng mga nakatanggap talaga.

"Dahil nasa Kuwait ito, I saw si Arnell at Ann't nakatanggap ng pambahoras. Sabi ni Arnel, 'Ate, ako ang nagbigay ng pambahoras sa kanya.' Kaya para sa kanyang pabor."

"Hindi ako galit sa kanya. Ang gusto ko ay 'Papuntahin' ng mga nakatanggap talaga. Ang gusto ko ay 'Papuntahin' ng mga nakatanggap talaga. Ang gusto ko ay 'Papuntahin' ng mga nakatanggap talaga.

"Hindi ako galit sa kanya

Cristy Fermin ...

Front page G4

RUFFA Gutierrez

...gun parties but I will miss her candid whispers about our business on any given minute happening in the show. I will see her as a lovable lady. Her bad blood and promise no more baiting. "Hmmm... I can almost imagine Ms. Fe doing an impressive dance of the infamous song, "Cuidado Pilapers."

No reason to be jealous

Hongkong Doctor shrugged off rumors about his girlfriend Marian Rivera being jealous of Angelica Panganiban because of some love scenes in a movie... Dingdong and Angel I are making. "There is no reason for her to feel that way" ex-plained Dong. "We are way past that stage in our relationship."

Instagram

Twitter has become an unfriendly place for some media because of the hackers and "suspicious" politicking their enemies. Most of them have turned to Instagram where followers are presently plen-tiful.

I recently signed in as dollycruz0411. I look forward to browsing through pictures of my celeb friends daily. It's quite interesting to see what they post —like Richard and Lucy Gomez and their daughter Ju-lianna's Paris story; Si Ai de Las Mias and her special someone; others who strive to be Baby Baron Geisler's Instagram warning; Paolo Gonzalez' "shining solar" pics with his daughter; KC Concepcion's vintage Hermes bag from her lo-la; and more.

The shots alone tell a story. It gives you a glimpse of the little details you don't get to see on cam-eras. What a voyeuristic thrill!

Luke Mejares gig

Don't miss my protege Luke Mejares' post-birthday concert, "Groove in the Name of Love," on July 7 at Metro Bar. Guests include Francis Reyes, Princess Velarde and Sub Proph [illegible] Zaragoza, Broken Equestrian and Jordana Bendicto of Freestyle. For me, Luke could very well be called "MJ of the Philippines."

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Reporters banned from buffet at starlet's party

By the Entertainment Staff

SEASONED Starlet's popularity has soared. Desperate to avoid tabloid interest, SS invited media friends to a party.

The plan backfired as the journalists complained of discrimination once held.

Instead of being shown to the buffet spread, the guests were herded to the back of the room and each given one cup of rice and a piece of chicken.

When stories of the incident spread throughout Showbiz, SS crept backers threw her right.

Girl for hire

Army Scudee has a dirty little secret. Before show biz bookused, she worked as a high-class escort, charging over P50,000 per date.

Now that she has earned a little bit of celebrity, SS has jacked up her asking price. This makes her unavailable to her ravaging fans. Sorry, guys.

Two-timing hunk

Rich Bruncheeze dumped Frankie Arroz. HA had been dreaming. RB's reasons, by demanding expensive gifts—ranging from gadgets to real estate.

RB, our dvd rep, especially after learning that HA was dating Silhouette cop on the side. In no mood to share toys, RB stopped coughing up HA's monthly allowance.

Singing the blues

Friends are seriously concerned because Simran Ayesen has hit a rough patch again.

A string of personal tragedies left SS slightly unhinged and acting erratically in public. She sought treatment and months later reconvened.

But of late, SA seems to be once again feeling the blues. Apart from neglecting show biz commitments, she was seen behaving strangely, talking to imaginary friends. Is psychic.

Colorhead

Promising Wushi is no longer as desirable as he used to be.

Fashion woman it's because of his hard-living, hard-working lifestyle and an addiction to coke. Not the sex, da.

Tawas ran, SS charts the stuff before going on stage. Thus, his performance suffers and he often ends up looking like a manic fool. Worse, his voice has lost its power as well.

Good boy

On the other hand, things are going very well indeed for good boy and very good singer Marvin Ong, who just signed a management/recording contract with Viva Entertainment.

Ong just finished doing "Sound of Music" (where he played the young Kim Bell) as Bianca's World. The week, his new album, "Figure ng Puso," carrying three of his original compositions, will be released under Viva Records.

Top of the Talk Shows

Bet Dame who missed last weekend's TV guesting (and why no one noticed, if we are honest).

+ Jessel (Ok) can hear the Holy about her father's death. "Having blood in a sense we make us ayos. But never have I know so soon heaven ayos." (Ok, Debbie wasn't.)

+ Vina Jenkins on doing a production number with "Party Pilipinas" with boyfriend Mark Vincent, and rumored third party Eric Bernal: "Medyo, ayaw pero, kinatatakutan ako kun parang ang sweet lang silver gawain ng isang and all ... pero sabay kaming nag-rehearse si Eric." (Denying chemistry implied—rang number.)

+ Mr. Sorry on his alleged plans to enter politics. "Kung meron mang plano pagdating sa politika, as short-term-gagawing ang announcement." Di nasd to be a Bar "no"—nag-isip na ba ang dispo ng Ampia?)

+ Phillip Salvador, asked if he'd leave show biz, should he become vice governor of Bulacan: "Hindi ko siguro muna, siguro kasi yun ang kinumbinsi ng aking mga mata ... in ang hirnahap ni tito, Ashe kailan ni namin mananalilo run." (Sabi! during the campaign period?)

+ Bally Sagisag, asked if or she was asked by Sh. Pe on who among Aga Muhlach, Robin Padilla and Zoren Legaspi (former boyfriends) is the best endorser: "Pero-se gawa. I'm not answering that!" (Tiffany, that's no ground.)

+ Eric Quizon, asked how he stays strong in the face of his father's critical condition: "Marami kaming napdaanpsak at mga napagsubukan ... kung dun nga nagging strong-end, mayroong mga ka-ounsels. Hindi lang sarili ang kailangan ng mga tao kundi ko." (Well said.)

+ Jeniffer Rondez, asked if there's competition between him and "Dalisi sa Pag-Ibig" coactor Pedro Penduko: "Oh, hindi, tanggap ko naman na mas malaki ka. Yung show or bituin siya?" (We should take a poll here. How did viewers feel about the exchange between Robi and Pe

MARVIN Ong (center) with Viva Entertainment founder Vic del Rosario Jr. (left) and Viva de Castro, associate producer

ANGELINE Quinto

KC CONCEPCION

JOSHUA Rosales

ola na mananatale rehearsal! Anyway, 'wag na lang.)

+ Jennifer Sanders, asked if girlfriend Gabe Jones is "the one": "Sa dalas namam ng gal. Hindi ko pa siya nakikita ng [three kan.] my dame and my family ito lang sinasabi—ang gusto gusto ang kasama." (Di ako ba, malapit?)

+ KC Concepcion, asked about her love life: "Nong umpisa, I was scared, siyempre ang first boyfriend. "Somebody who's humble and hardworking. Ang wanted, di pero sinabi 'yung feeling ng gusto ko 'yung nasa ko, 'yun na talaga ... pero hanggang di ko na kayang mahipag-usap, di ko na kayang mahipag-usap." (Kasi i'm—we can't do that again!)

+ Cristine Reyes apologizes to sister Ara Mina: "I would like to apologize if ever I offended you as someone look me at first. I mind my head ito pamasyita sa'yo ... sinabi ko po sa'yo, huwag po muna labahad eka sa harapan mo. Sana lamumbot na pasa mo at hili para maayos na. Yung galit. Para sa Ramayahmik ng pamilya natin." (Ang sweet d'yan.

(starring the tabloids.)

+ Angelina Quinto on why she wants to find her biological mother: "Siguro nung nakaraan ko na umpisa ako, 'pati na po 'yung isa sa mga pangarap ko... gusto ko yung makahanap kung kaano po ako nanggaling talaga. Hindi para may pakisamahan ko siya, 'yung 'di ko mahilig 'yung sa ng nung tanong, 'di ba? ang pagkatao ko." (Tulo sa old sa kina ... kahit ang sketong gusto sa akon ba? And the story books at cutthroat points to their careers. We're not saying. Those are not.)

+ Senator Bapao hunk Bongbong Marcos, asked if losing Pinky Pascual's nephew is an advantage: "Kahit mga kaibigan, 'kya get nominal ibaser ... it's a chal. Nagsa-sand I nobleman d.." (Ooh an almost-bid.)

(Hirsch B., Pepperoni, Showbiz Central, The Boss, with Allan Peñaranda, Czech Bieber)

Not yet a national artist but certainly a national treasure

By Jose Javier Reyes
From his blog
"Chasing an My Adobo"

WE ALL love Dolphy because for decades ... nay, generations ... he never ceased giving us laughter.

What matters from so differ. ent—and so loved? It certainly is not his reputation as a Lothario, nor the sheer power of his comedic talent.

It is his humanity and humility.

We are in tears as he fights for his life because we cannot imagine living without that simple guy—whom every image embodies all of what we know as Philippine comedy.

Rodolfo "Dolphy" Quizon is living history.

He was not as privileged as the star of his contract no matter of today's "stars," whose overnight success, almost because of availability, accessibility and the power of media.

Dolphy rose from the ranks. He honed his talents through years of hard work, alongside other legends in the annals of local entertainment.

Never harsh

To trace the history of Dolphy's career is to create a road map of Philippine entertainment from the 20th to the early 21st centuries.

Perhaps his player on stage shows called Indiklab—where the likes of Mary Walker, Bayani Casimiro, Katy de la Cruz, Gerardo Blancaflor, Pepe, Pupo, Lopito and Nicky Beniel first starting in the world of music, applause and laughter—Dolphy evolved into a personification of the Filipino immortalized by stage, TV and film.

Who could forget the years of unintentional Chaplinesque comedy as second Filipino family in the persona of John Pavamonog, his wife Matilde (played by the late Nida Blanca) and their children Baby (the real son Bally Quizon) and Shirley (Shirley Quizon)—the original Bubble Gang characters?

"John En Marsha" holds the record as the longest running sitcom in Philippine television.

For the younger generation, Dolphy is Bernie Ouano of "Home Along Da Riles." The dance number offered the same magic of the Pinoy many who dealt with fate with an open heart, who never lost his humanity amid the foibles and complexities of life.

One thing notable about Dolphy's seminal portrayals and characters is that they are funny in a Chaplin-esque way. The vulnerability of his portrayal makes him lovable.

He is never harsh or impolite, and does not resort to vulgarity to win his laughs. He is a gentleman as much as he is a comedian.

Definitely not a proponent of comedy as it is rendered today (homicidal conditionality, insult and insensitive forms of aggression), Dolphy is a master of timing, wit, even understating.

Remember Stella Dolphy or Dolfo Pathogger? A classic look around even that Dolphy never mustered a comedic mortality as he would have those characters be played.

In the movie "Ang Tatay Kong Nanay" directed by multi-talented Bradley Rickford, where he encountered with then child superstar Niño Muhlach, the dramatic interplay revealed his sensibilities and sensitivities would relate with from audiences as well. Many of those scenes—though often fatherly in an artist.

During his "Bahay Artista" days in the old ABS CBN, Dolphy displayed smooth moves on the dance floor and perfect chemistry with then sidekick Dencheo Oba.

Dolphy is loved by colleagues because of his legendary generosity—but more so for his endearing ability to listen to others. Despite his stature, he did not leave his sense of reality. He is always the first to lend a helping hand even before it is sought. He is famous for handing people only what is within his reach.

Terrifying prospect

I have not had the chance to work with Dolphy as a director, but I hold dearest one opportunity I had to work for him as a writer—for the telefilm "Inay, Daddy," directed by Peque Gallaga. I wrote about the pain, agony and frustrations of a newly orphaned man (my father) who had worked all his life and was now compelled to stay home and feel absolutely useless.

I never had the chance to tell Dolphy how happy he unwittingly made me, how he was coming on the role.

Like many colleagues, I am now very afraid—terrified, in fact—at the prospect of being left behind by a man who many of us consider as our father, in one way or another.

Rodolfo Quizon may not have been given the title bestowed upon him as a great number of Filipinos, this man who makes us laugh is a national treasure.

A YOUNGER Pidol from the book "Hindi Ka Sa Marating Mag-Isa"

MVP: Most Valuable Pidol

From page G4

"Everyone in the family was required to watch it as well."

Pangilinan's favorite Dolphy film, for the record, is "Facifica Falsafia." Espinosa picked "Palayday" as well.

For females, the top two are "Hong Kong Holiday" and "Mag-Inday Kong Pasko."

Barretto said he watched Dolphy's black-and-white movies aired on TV in the afternoons. "I loved him so much as a teacher."

Needless to say, Pangilinan was awed by Dolphy's performances in Albert Martinez's "Bonanza," which was produced by the multi-awarded actor for the Metro Manila Film Festival two years ago. Pangilinan said the film is special for him because the beloved comic played his grandfather in it.

"He portrayed my Lolo Feroz. My grandfather watched the movie and was thrilled. Like Dolphy, my grandfather is multo-mutro," said Pangilinan.

Movie-watching is another passion that Pangilinan and Dolphy share, apart from their love of Hong Kong. Pangilinan said he would usually catch late-night screenings of movies in Hong Kong, where his company Metro Manila is based.

Dolphy used to be a regular in the Backyard Boogie movies produced by Nicanor Abelardo. Espinosa said Abelardo, "Tito Nick" to many, "Hands down, he deserved the Best Actor award. That was current condition has nothing to do with it. He deserves the honor because of his talents, his history and his contributions to the entertainment industry."

Pangilinan believed Dolphy as a true Filipino original. "His impact on national life is enormous and historic. His contributions to comedy is distinctive and unique."

Barretto agreed: More than a national artist, "Dolphy is a national treasure."

The network is completely supporting Manny Pidol in the toughest battle of his life, Pangilinan said. "We have to balance the emotions. We have to be sensitive to the family's need for privacy and exercising Manny Dolphy's own needs as a person at the same time," noted the big boss.

Espinosa reiterated that, contrary to reports, the network is continuing to run Dolphy's current show, "Pidol's Wonderland."

Dolphy stopped taping for the show in September 2011, when his health took a turn for the worse. Still, the program was not taken off the air, said Espinosa. And like the many legacy of laughter and love, he added, "the show can go on forever."

"He has lived a full life ... a colorful life," Pangilinan observed. "But I know he has no regrets."

E-mail: bysreyes.manila@gmail.com

THE COMEDY King with Pangilinan after his contract signing with TV5 in 2010

CROWDED at the 1st Filipino-American International Book Festival in San Francisco last year were pleasantly surprised when Eric Quizon (left) and his brother Epy took the stage to promote their Chef's book, "Hindi Ko Iniwang Mag-isa." The brothers manned the TFC (The Filipino Channel) booth that sold the book for the benefit of Dolphy Aid Para sa Pinoy Foundation. Eric and Epy have always overseen the foundation's scholarship program, as they are set to oversee the Pistol Cup golf tournament to mark Dolphy's 84th birthday next month.

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MVP: Most Valuable Pidol

As seen by another MVP–Manny V. Pangilinan, big boss of TV5, Dolphy's home station

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

PITTI more than a feast of pride, Manny V. Pangilinan, chair of TV5, readily admitted that he's a big fan of Comedy King Dolphy.

In an exclusive interview with the tycoon, Pangilinan, or MVP as he is known in the business scene, recalled that he first met Dolphy as a guest for his telecommunications company Smart "many years ago" (when the comedian was Smart's celebrity endorser).

Star-struck

"I was star-struck," Pangilinan admitted. "But Dolphy has a way of making everyone feel comfortable. He's very human."

Bobby Suarez, TV5 executive vice president and chief operating officer, recounted working with the Comedy King for a TV special. "Between takes, he shared stories from his past. By the end, he was laughing so hard, he was on the verge of tears."

Ray Espinosa, the Kapuso chairman's president and chief executive officer, related that his first met Dolphy when the network began a series of dinner meetings that eventually led to the screen legend's transfer from ABS-CBN to TV5 two years ago.

"He was the life of the party every time we met," said Herc Lendoit, TV5's head of Entertainment.

"He was always so spirited and still strong, at the time," Pangilinan said.

Felix Espinosa, Jr., Suarez and Lendoit, Pangilinan visited the Comedy King at the intensive care unit of Makati Medical Center (MMC) on Saturday. During the Inquirer interview held later at the Makati Med coffee shop, Pangilinan said he remained hopeful that Dolphy would overcome the latest health crisis. "He has a strong will to live. He's got a strong heart—which is vital for (ailing) ones like this," said Pangilinan.

A promise

The ailing comedian had just finished his second dialysis at the time of the visit. "He was drifting in and out of consciousness," Pangilinan said, "but he was crying for Jose to keep his eyes open and listen to us. I promised to take him to Hong Kong—where he's buried. He loves Hong Kong; he worked there as an entertainer in the 1950s."

Times after the network loss left Dolphy underscore the bonding

Pangilinan, who's also the chair of MMC, said he would leave no stone unturned "to make Mang Dolphy's hospital stay as comfortable as possible."

He also related that Dolphy was the first to make the big leap to TV5 under this management. Asked why they signed him up, Pangilinan quipped: "Among our considerations, young or old, here or abroad . . . who doesn't know Mang Dolphy?"

Barreiro agreed: "We all grew up watching his TV shows and movies."

Espinosa volunteered that his father loved watching Dolphy's 1960s musical comedy show "Bahay Bakya."

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BYOD 'explosion'

sets new trends in business productivity

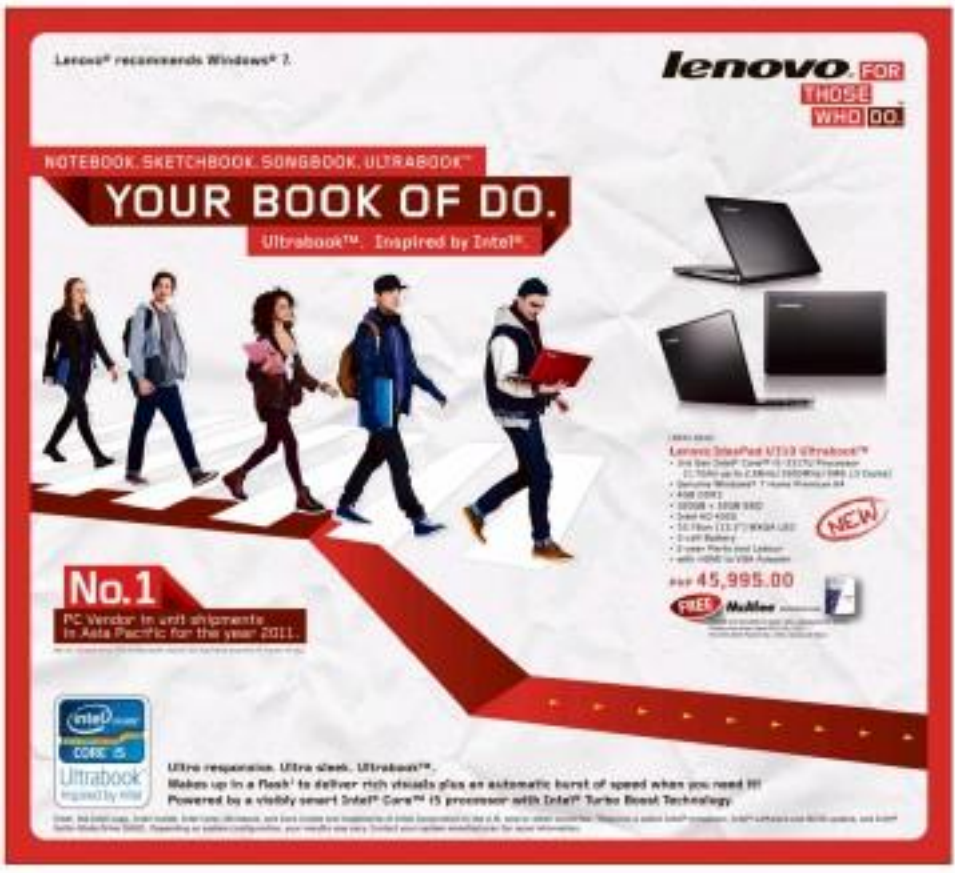
Security continues to be a major challenge for service providers

By Marlet D. Salazar

EVEN as social networking is paving the way for increased demand in hand-held devices as well as seamless, real-time connectivity, the fallout effects on business are already threatening to create a more profound change in the way employees work.

A recent survey revealed that "The majority (75) percent of service providers expect to see 10 to 25 percent increase in 'bring your own device' (BYOD) requests from business customers in the coming year due to the recognized benefits for businesses."

Analyze Firm/Survey Reading.com. shared the survey in April 2012 as commissioned by Analyze, an Asia's



SMRT-Core Grid: The smart way to a healthy lifestyle

PICK UP any health or fashion magazine and you'll find fitness tips are a dime a dozen. Finding the right one that suits your body needs, however, is the real challenge.

Fitness guru Jamie Howell knows this. It was one of the many things she stressed during her visit to the country where she conducted an eight-hour workshop, which drew over 100 participants, at the global ambassador of Reggie Bush's revolutionary fitness and nutrition program called the SMRT-Core Grid.

She, however, admitted that programs require a certain level of enthusiasm on the part of the clients because of the amount of effort involved. In fact, she said: "Health is a lifetime commitment. It's not like alcohol. It does not come in a bottle."

Her experience as a teacher to them finding the right program for those frustrations who knock on her door. She gives them various modifications with the SMRT-Core Grid, depending on what their interests are.

"I prescribe a program that the client enjoys. If you don't enjoy the program, you won't stick with it. You've got to go with your passion," Howell explained. And after all of that is considered, the factors in one more important detail, one that allows the program to stay with once body's range of capabilities.

"I also look at other factors like age and fitness level. For first-timers, I prescribe two to three days a week of light workouts before slowly increasing the intensity," she stressed.

This is important because even with professional athletes, programs have to be very specific. "Some are guys who make a living out of being fit and even they are prone to over training. That is why Howell makes sure that every program she recommends does not push the client beyond his or her limits. And the program should always fit the client's needs.

Howell is huge on the Grid because it is dangerous into the notion that you have to be in a specific place to work out, like a gym. Normally people with fitness problems tend to put off working themselves back into shape because of excuses such as having no time to travel to the gym, expensive gym fees or equipment and simply no time, period.

The Grid eliminates all of these worries. With the Grid, all you really need is the unwavering commitment to get healthy and stay healthy. This is the same reason why professional athletes also rely a lot on the Grid. Hockey sensation Alexander Ovechkin and basketball pro big shots around during rounds in the NBA, the Los Angeles Lakers and the Denver Nuggets have been known to travel with the Grid because it can be used practically everywhere.

Exclusively distributed by SportFit Inc. in the country, the Reggie Bush products, including the Grid and other high-tech conditioning tools, equipment and facilities, are available at SportFit Inc.'s Wellness Concept stores at Greenbelt 5, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell, Shangri-la Mall, Old Mall of Asia, Trilateran and Ayala Center Cebu, according to Goody Custodio, business development manager of SportFit Inc., which organized the Howell workshop.

Of course, using the Grid won't make one the next NBA superstar. It's more is still a combination of a lot of things, with factors such as nutrition playing a huge role in it. In fact, Howell prides fitness reconstruction experts to help supplement the program's further success for them.

She does, however, recommend that clients take more than just water in-between themselves. Water, she said, does not replenish electrolytes and fluids our system as effectively as other sweet commercial hydration tools.

What's not to like. With her programs and the help of the SMRT-Core Grid, everyone, even beginners, can jump-start their ways to a more fit and healthy lifestyle.

BYOD 'explosion' sets new trends in business productivity

Frances Pi

run company which offers services in business transformation, process design and implementation, unified collaboration change management, enterprise mobile lines, project management, infrastructure, on-going operations and more. The survey included 33 wireless, wireline and cable service providers across Asia Pacific, Europe, and Central America, Latin America, and North America.

"BYOD has been gaining momentum as consumers want to bring their favorite smartphones and tablets to work, and tech enterprises anticipating benefits such as increased productivity and employee satisfaction, are ready to expand this trend to continue to grow," said Ari Banerjee, senior analyst at Heavy Reading.

"But BYOD creates new complexities to both the enterprise and the service provider who must support features such as device care, bill split, security, shared loyalty and data plans and differentiated quality of service. If service providers can overcome the technological challenges of providing these features, the additional customer experience will lead to huge gains in customer satisfaction and loyalty," he added.

The findings are also in line with Amdocs' Omni-Convergence presentation at Amdocs 2012 Summit Americas held recently in Miami, Florida.

The five of Omni-Convergence are an "ultimate" user experience that is real-time, personalized, shared, and secure with the use of smartphones, tablets, machine to machine (M2M), and connected consumer electronics. And users would expect only the best from social networks, platform players, application developers, device manufacturers, and retailers.

Convergence would also closely unify and still combine the different payment channels such as postpaid, prepaid, freepaid, and more paid.

"The business segment represents huge revenue potential for service providers, and to capitalize on this matter they will need to offer tailored and competitive offerings, including BYOD," said Rebecca Prabhakumar, vice president of product and solution marketing for Amdocs. "By converging IMS and OSS, service providers gain a unified customer view required to support BYOD requests, such as creating hybrid plans and offering device support, ultimately simplifying the customer experience."

Providers will have the most work in this omni-convergence platform.

The survey also reveals that "The lack of BYOD convergence (50 percent) is cited as the main inhibitor, because it prevents a single view of the customer (51 percent). The absence of a flexible product catalog (37 percent) and a real-time system for post-paid enterprise customers (21 percent) were also identified as significant concerns for service providers."

Amdocs' created an integrated approach of from network to customer base of payment. It involves customer, product and service management, as well charging, policy management, service delivery, core network, and access technology.

The company says that this omni convergent charging would help in more cost and time implementation, real-time consumption insight and control, accelerate and simplifies new service launch, drives service innovation, and reduces business complexity.

The study further states that BYOD will decrease costs and increase consumer productivity by 16-25 percent. It begins to benefit employees and encourages productivity.

Lenovo launches new PCs powered by 3rd generation Intel core processors

LENOVO today unveiled its latest contribution to the PC – a wealth the launch of the new ThinkEdge line of PCs. These PCs are powered by 3rd generation Intel Core processors, to suit varied computing needs, styles and performance of consumers as well as small and medium businesses and corporate users.

Nitty Agustin, country general manager, Lenovo Philippines said: "As Lenovo grows from strength to strength, we have been able to package many smart advancements in style, design and user experience and most importantly, at an affordable price, to benefit our PC users. We therefore have great confidence that these great consumer, good-to-business products will be well received by the market."

ThinkPad E531 and E431 – Ultra Business for Style and Performance

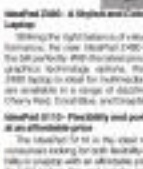
Ideally as slim as a paperback book, the 15.6-inch thin-and-light ThinkPad E531 and 14-inch E431 are ideal for any mobile needs, only measuring 18mm and 24mm thick, weighing 1.7kg and 1.6kg, both packed in an ultra-thin body of battery life, respectively, on a single charge.

The Ultrabooks supported by solid state drive feature also that boot up and quick resume from sleep up to 30 percent faster than the traditional hard drive. Both models are powered by 3rd generation Intel Core processors with Windows 7 and 8 Professional. Add DDR3 memory, 32GB SSD cache and 500GB hard disk. Drive 250GB storage. For optimal mobile when connecting to wireless networks, the E531 features Intel® WiMAX/Wi-Fi Link 6205 802.11a/b/g/n, while the E431 features Intel® Wi-Fi Link 5300 802.11a/b/g/n. Wireless for life is a display configuration that is ideal for business with ThinkWireless Display (WiDi) technology for wireless connectivity and projection.

ThinkPad T430s – The Laptop for Ultimate Entertainment

For a high-performance laptop capable of handling intensive multimedia applications, look no further than the ThinkPad T430s. Powered by the latest Core i7 Processor, the new ThinkPad T430s 14" full HD display laptop satisfies the highest level of graphics and processing performance when working or watching multimedia and gaming, featuring up to NVIDIA® GeForce® GT 640M LE/ 630 graphics.

Entertainment elevates with Dolby Home Theatre for enhanced audio, ultra-sharp and dynamic and ClearVoice™ Technology for crisp, audio-visual optimization providing clearer, brighter images and richer audio. An exceptional TV tuner and Intel® Wireless Display (WiDi) technology2 users can view their videos and photos on the screen. The largest screen in this house for an unbeatable and compatibility interactive experience.



ThinkPad Edge E440 – Affordable Laptop

Striking the right balance of value and performance, the new ThinkPad E440 laptop PC has the full portfolio with the latest processors and graphics technology options. The ThinkPad E440 laptop is ideal for multimedia tasks and are available in a range of dazzling colors: Cherry Red, Crystal Blue and Graphite Grey.

ThinkPad S230 – Flexibility and portability at an affordable price

The ThinkPad S230 is the ideal network for consumers looking for both flexibility and portability, coupled with an affordable price as well. The S230 looks like an all-in-one PC, but brings what makes it a very handy laptop to carry around. It boasts of having HD, full size chiclet keyboard with a standard Windows keys and numpad with a 10 finger multi-touch capability.

The ThinkPad S230 is powered by up to 3rd generation Intel Core Processors with Windows Enhanced Experience 3 Intel wireless connectivity options including up to 1 Gbps which makes it a very handy laptop to carry around. It boasts of having HD, full size chiclet keyboard with a standard Windows keys and numpad with a 10 finger multi-touch capability.

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ThinkCentre M93z – All-in-one with a sleek and compact design

Designed for productivity in dynamic working environments such as education, healthcare and government organizations, the space-saving design of the ThinkCentre M73z All-in-One is ideal for organizations that need long performance and easy maintenance. The M93z gives you to save 60% desk space and increase enterprise productivity thanks to its compact design. Desktop performance also won't suffer as the computer is powered by the Intel HD chipset and latest third generation Intel Core processors. Also experience faster boot time up to 40% with the Lenovo Enhanced Experience 3.0.

Experience smooth VoIP functionality and advance desktop communication using the Communication Utility, updating all camera and setup integrations. The AIO offers the reliable data security of TPM and also has PC Anti-Lock that enables intuitive data protection without any assumption your desk.

The ThinkCentre M73z AIO also optimizes energy saving with the Desktop Power Manager which helps to easily regulate power supply. The ThinkCentre M73z AIO is built to withstand the rigors of everyday office business collaboration in a small space.

ThinkCentre M73e – Essential Value and Convenience

Designed to meet the ever-increasing consumption needs of large businesses and small and medium organizations, the ThinkCentre M73e comes in a more basic small form factor, to ensure "any" form factor, a mix-like desktop. The M73e features powerful performance with the choices of 3rd Generation Intel Core i7 processors and up to 16GB of fast memory to provide plenty of computing power for daily work. The M73e also features Lenovo OCR for super fast and accurate data entries. Combined with optional WiFi and wireless Bluetooth, the M73e delivers a powerful mix of productivity and efficiency.

ThinkCentre M83 – Enhanced Corporate Reliability

Armed with choices of the latest 3rd Generation Intel Core i7 processors, the ThinkCentre M83 gives mainstream business users the power to complete everyday tasks with ease. The M83 available in mini tower or small form factor, to suit your business needs. Powered by the latest Intel Core i7 processors, including Lenovo Enhanced Experience 3.0 and Intel vPro technology, the M83 are also available in a VPRO desktop (Core i5 and i7). It also makes corporate computing highly secure with a TPM (trusted Platform Module) security chip and Intel Anti-Theft technology. The M83 is easily serviceable along with more efficient thermal levels that increase reliability.

ThinkCentre M93/M93p – Scalable for performance and productivity

The Lenovo ThinkCentre M93/M93p is designed for technical managers with advanced requirements and responsibility. Desktop maintenance is hassle-free with 24 month lifecycle and high-platform stability through Intel Stable Image Platform Program (SIPP). Intel vPro technology and Lenovo Fingerprint (EZ2) helps you manage the desktop remotely and locally as required.

Powered by the latest 3rd generation Intel Core processors, the ThinkCentre M93/M93p provide uncompromised performance across-the-board. Maximize system performance with Lenovo's Enhanced Experience 3 and Rapid Start technology. Open graphics options with support for Intel Dual Frequency Technology.

The ThinkCentre M93/M93p offers all that you need to work in peace of mind. Get best performance, enhanced productivity, and renowned reliability.

For the latest Lenovo news, subscribe to Lenovo RSS feeds or follow Lenovo on Twitter (www.twitter.com/Lenovo) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/lenovophilippines).

Lenovo heats up ultrabook war

By Mariel Salazar

THE BATTLE of ultrabooks is heating up with Lenovo launching its IdeaPad IPCs for consumers which it claim as wins machines for style and performance.

The two models come in 13.3-inch screen size (IdeaPad U310), and 14-inch for the IdeaPad U410. And like other ultrabooks, Lenovo's IdeaPads boast of instant-on in 30 secs and 25 secs and goes

lightweight as it can be at 1.71kg and 1.86g.

Lenovo ultrabooks are also supported by solid state drives boasts ultra-fast boot up and quick resume from sleep up to 40 percent faster than non-optimized. It's multi-possible by Lenovo's Enhanced Experience 3 optimization for Windows 7 Lenovo Smart Update updates a-

tual, messenger conversation, and social media messages even when in sleep mode. The Lenovo U310 and U410 are eye candy devices with colors such as aqua blue, cherry blossom, and graphite gray.

"Lenovo Ultrabooks are a game changer," said Vicky Agoncillo, country general manager of Lenovo Philippines. "The introduction of the IdeaPad U310 and U410 marks the milestone where Ultrabooks become mainstream. We see the company that can offer the widest range of Ultrabooks, from entry-level up to premium, from consumer to corporate, to suit the different needs of our customers."

Whatever and being lightweight are not the only features that make the two new MoBOs ideal for people on the go. Both Ultrabooks are powered by up to third generation Intel Core i5 Processor, 4GB DDR3 memory, 32GB SSD cache and 500GB Hard Disc Drive (HDD) storage.

The U310 features Intel GMA 4000 HD graphics, while the U410 features NVIDIA GeForce 610M 1GB graphics giving a more optimal visual feature.

Lenovo also introduced the IdeaPad Yoklet which aims to capture what it calls the "business road warrior" who needs a classy and powerful tool.

The tablet comes in a sleek 10.1-inch screen with Corning Gorilla glass screen. It is powered by Android 3.1 platform and NVIDIA Tegra 2 dual-core processor which are best for people who need to do multiple works to one sitting.

Owners of the IdeaPad tablet can choose from the more than 700,000 apps in the Android Market with additional apps for Lenovo devices in the Lenovo App Shop. It also comes with optional accessories for business professionals such as a digitizer pen for note-taking. Users can choose to connect to digital text with apps like eText79 and Nomo Mobile. Users can also use the pen to perform quantitive touchscreen functions such as open, click, drag, etc. with more precise controls than what one's finger can give.

"So Lenovo grows from strength to strength, we have been able to package many smart advancements in style, design and user experience and most importantly at an affordable price, to benefit our PC users. We simply make great Yo Machines that garner great competitive, great individuals and great ideas."

InFocus unveils first AIO giant tablet

Mondopad is designed for business video conferencing and collaboration, connects people, and lets remote users collaborate

MONDOPAD wall mount

MONDOPAD, a giant 55-inch HD wall-tablet that combines intuitive touch collaboration applications, is now in the country. A product of InFocus Corp., a digital display technology leader and visual collaboration champion, the giant tablet is capable of cloud-based video conferencing and offers a disruptively priced all-in-one collaboration display.

InFocus partnered with Vidtel, a cloud video conferencing service provider, to make business-grade video conferencing as easy as making a phone call. Unlike traditional video conferencing, Mondopad requires no upfront infrastructure investment or IT resources, and it connects to all SD and H.323 standards-based endpoints and many proprietary video conferencing platforms—from popular free consumer video conferencing applications like Google Chat, to enterprise telepresence systems from Polycom and Cisco.

Vidtel has solved significant video connectivity interoperability issues on great systems don't have to handle with adapting the same equipment and service to connect with external partners.

The Mondopad's 720p HD video camera and conferencing software, designed specifically for video conferencing to eliminate conference room echoes and enhance the audio quality of dialogue.

"Although the innovation productivity and efficiency benefits are well established, video conferencing deployments among SMBs remain limited due, at least in part, to the relatively high cost and complexity of traditional solutions," said Ira M. Weinstein, senior analyst and partner, Wainhouse Research. "The combination of the Mondopad wall tablet and the Vidtel managed service yields an affordable, high-quality, standards-based visual collaboration solution that is easy to install, manage, and use. It is just this type of solution that will help video conferencing break into the SMB space."

Transforming conference rooms

Offering a 55-inch full-HD 1080p (1920x1080) LED display and designed for multi-touch from the ground up, Mondopad changes the way people interact with information and each other.

Sharing documents and visuals in a meeting is extremely easy, whether users are local or remote. Mondopad's multi-touch display works with Word, PowerPoint, Excel, PDF, JPGs and more. Presenter, whiteboard and annotation applications—including a complete set of writing and drawing tools—open the dialogue, increase engagement and make it easy to brainstorm and quickly save and distribute ideas. Multiple Mondopads on the same network support multi-party whiteboard sessions.

Local or remote users can easily share, view and control presentations from their PC, tablet or smartphone. The Mondopad's WiFi connects meeting participants have the right level of access. Even authorized users being able to connect directly to a corporate network through the display, to ensuring guests being able to easily deliver documents to the display or access the Internet without connecting to an organization's private network. Remote participants are able to see what's on the Mondopad via Web page served by the Mondopad.

"From small businesses to distributed enterprise, InFocus now offers a business-grade HD video conferencing and all-in-one collaboration solution at an incredibly low price of entry," said Mark Bolin, InFocus SVP/GM visual solutions. "Mondopad offers a future-proof collaboration solution with none of the expense, setup, maintenance or upgrades traditionally required."

IT administrators and managed service providers can securely monitor and manage the Mondopad from anywhere. Embedded fused software technologies and compatibility with industry-leading remote monitoring and management software provider LogMeIn.com secure for controlling, scheduling and administering the Mondopad as a hosted IT asset. Administrators can also add their own Windows applications to the Mondopad.

Go All-In with Smart

Nokia Asha 300

Nokia Asha 302

WIRELESS leader Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) has hotted up its All-In' suite of postpaid plans by offering the latest devices from the popular Asha line of top handset manufacturer Nokia. And with a simple call or "text" interested individuals can now up-pity for any of their plans, and have the Nokia Asha delivered the best, right at their doorstep.

Smart's All-In Plans are fully-customizable mobile subscription plans that allow users to design and create their own plans by selecting only the services they need, and changing them against the fixed monthly service fee (MSF) until that it until up down to the last penny.

The All-In Plans are the most flexible, most user-friendly set of plans available to the market today. Unlike other providers that charge for services on top of MSF, Smart All-In users need not exceed their monthly budget except the services they need, as long as their chosen services fit within their MSF," said Kathryn Garog, Smart Postpaid Marketing Head.

Among the services that Smart subscribers can mix and match under the All-In suite are unlimited call and text packages to various price points, mobile Internet plans, and IOS services available in Plans 500, 800, 1200, 1800, 2500, and 3500. All-In Plans also come with a free handset - and users may choose from a roster of the newest, most advanced handsets in the Smart portfolio.

Among these new handsets are the latest devices from Nokia's Asha line – which has been designed by the Finnish manufacturer to offer users the fast, always-connected smartphone experience made better by less data and battery consumption.

The Nokia Asha 300, with its 2.4-inch touchscreen display, 3-Mbs processing power, and 3MP camera now available with an All-In Plan 500.

The Nokia Asha 302, on the other hand, may be best fitted with an All-In Plan 800. The Nokia Asha 302 is a QWERTY handset with a sophisticated and premium look, offering a seamless push email experience with Mail for Exchange.

Finally the Nokia Asha 303 may be bundled with an All-In Plan 1200. This handset combines QWERTY with touch, in a 2.8-inch capacitive touchscreen display. Like the Asha 302, the Asha 303 also features a 1-GHz processing performance and Mail for Exchange.

To apply for an All-In Plan from Smart bundled with a Nokia Asha device, interested individuals simply need to proceed to the nearest Smart Store. They may also contact Intellitext 8448887; or "888" by entering Smart subscribers. A sales associate will handle the transaction and take the subscriber through the process.

Once approved, Smart will deliver the phone – which comes with a one-year warranty – within three to five days if within metro Manila, and five to seven days for subscribers outside Metro Manila. Smart's sales hotlines are open seven days a week, even on holidays, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nokia Asha 303

IT all comes together with Samsung

TESSA Prieto-Valdes and Samsung IT Business Unit Advisor Jamie Rivera

As defined by the Merriam Webster Dictionary can-ver-gence (n.) the converging together of two or more things at the same point. In information technology, however, convergence also refers to the way devices work together seamlessly to take the value and functionality of these devices as they work in one ecosystem.

Samsung Smart Station Monitor: Central hub for your notebook PC

While other monitors have been clearly relegated to display images from personal computers, the Samsung Smart Station monitor is the hub for connecting multiple devices to your Notebook PC. With a single USB connection you can dock your notebook PC to your (4/ Full HD Monitor, keyboard, Mouse, External Hard Disk, or Printer. The monitor is also Mobile-to-Definition Link (MHL) enabled. This will allow you to display your mobile phone screen on the monitor allowing you to enjoy mobile content, gaming and apps on a bigger screen. Another feature of Smart Station is Mobile Control. While you are docked to your mobile phone, you can use the keyboard and mouse to control your mobile phone. Just drag the mouse over to the mobile phone and you can type out messages or paste via the regular keyboard.

The Samsung Smart Station is a 24" (1920x1080) Full HD Monitor with White Flowing angle LED Display. It comes with USB 3.0 x 2 and USB 2.0 x 1 ports, HDMI, MHL connectivity. This is available at leading IT Shops in Metro Manila at a price of PHP10,999.

Samsung wireless printers: Wireless Printing and Scanning from your PC, Smartphone or Tablet

To take productivity through connectivity a step further, the brand also made a way for users to easily cut their mobile device's umbilicals on print with the Samsung Wireless Printer. Powered by Wireless Direct Technology, it prints any document via WiFi even without a router as direct wireless connection is established to the printer, or if ports, photo, wirelessly. Samsung has extended the functionality of the Samsung Mobile Print App to allow not just wireless printing, but wireless scanning as well. Now you can scan, save and print using your android or iOS smartphone or tablet. Make quick copies of addresses and directions in flight details and store tickets with just one app!

Samsung's wireless printers come in 3 different models. The ML-2168W is a robust 20 PPM single function monochrome laser printer with an SRP of PHP4,990.00. The SCX-3405W is a wireless multi-function monochrome laser printer with scanning and copying capabilities is also available at an SRP of PHP6,990.00. On the other hand, the SCX-3405FW another wireless multi-function monochrome laser printer has a capability to send fax. It is available at an SRP of PHP8,990.00.

Thin and Light Notebooks: New and Improved

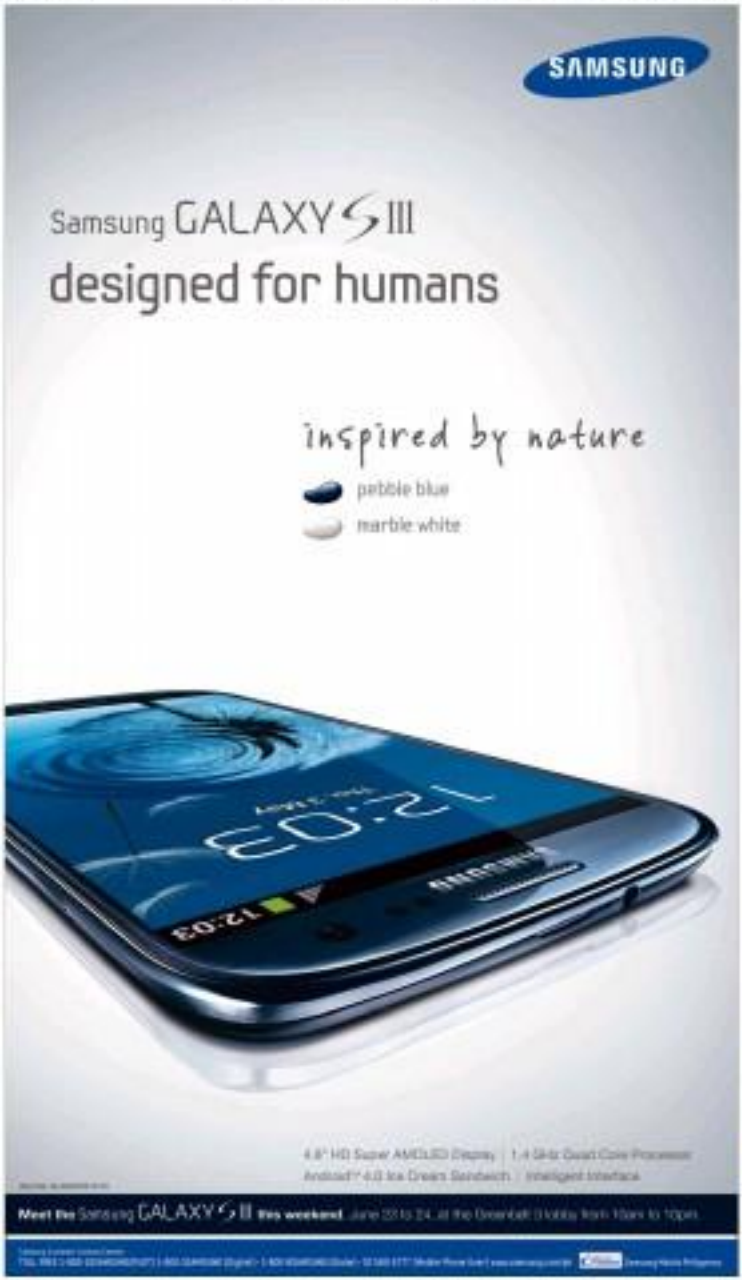
Following the success of the previous generation Ultrabooks, Samsung is refreshing its line-up of the Series 5 Ultra with the latest 3rd Generation Intel Ivy Bridge CPUs. This means better performance not just for basic computing, but increased graphics performance as well. Plus with improved SSD storage of 24GB complimenting 500GB and 1TB Hard Disc Drives, booting becomes even faster. The Series 5 Ultra is available in 13 at PHP58,000, 15 at PHP42,900 and 17 at PHP54,990, giving you options on which model best fits your needs.

Drawing inspiration from the thin and light category, the new Samsung Series 5 Slim gives you the best options for a portable notebook, but now with a greater price to pay. Running on AMD's Low Voltage A6 CPU, this notebook marries performance with great graphics featuring RM650 Discrete 2Gb Graphics. Coming in peal pink and mocha brown, the Series 5 Slim is available in all authorized retailers for only PHP39,000.

Samsung Series 9 Notebook: The ultimate 15" Notebook

Samsung reveals its best offering to date in the New Samsung Series 9. It is the world's thinnest 15" notebook at 17.9 mm thick and 1.58 kg weight, complementing lifestyles of mobile professionals as they are always on-the-go, even on the go. Powered by the latest Intel Core i7 Processor, 8GB memory and 256GB of SSD, trusted Windows 7 Professional operating has (Steaming currently tablets 8 / reviews) happed with its 400nit HD+ Superbright Plus Screen, documents, photos, videos, and websites are more brilliant than ever. Truly being big has never been this thin.

With incredible power, Samsung seamlessly creates more and more solutions to streamline its users' everyday lives. With convergence, consumers enjoy more out of their devices to feel the only Samsung has achieved throughout the years.



SAMSUNG Business Unit Director Eric Sohl talks about the new and powerful Samsung Notebook at the Samsung IT Convergence event last June 14, 2012.

JM Paredes

DARYANI Osorio-Perez

VIOLET Avila shows off one new lightweight yet powerful Samsung Notebook Series 9

JESSICA Sanchez and Sarah Geronimo

GADGETS Gallery

Supplement: Head Joey Arnaiz

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SUN CELLULAR

Showtime for new

Genius GX gaming series in MSI Overdrive e-Sports 2012

GENIUS, a leading brand of innovative computer peripherals, will showcase its newest GX Gaming Series in the upcoming MSI Overdrive e-Sports Invasional 2012 on July 6 to 8, to be held at the 4/F Annex Event Area, SM City North EDSA.

The event will be a gathering of gamers, overclockers, hardware enthusiasts, cosplayers, modders, and K-pop fanatics.

The GX Gaming Series encompasses a full range of professional PC gaming peripherals. Designed for MMO, RTS, and FPS gamers, the GX Gaming Series includes drool-worthy products such as 7.1-channel headsets, programmable keyboards and voice-with-you board accessory to save your game settings, and gaming speakers that deliver thundering bass.

Other products to be showcased are Death Taker MMO and RTS professional gaming mouse. These can customized to conquer any challenge in a MMO/RTS game and become an explosive game performer.

Death Taker has a built-in over-clocking 32Gb engine for a dpi range from 100 to 3700 so gamers can easily shift around the battlefield. A full speed CPU with memory chip prevents macro outrages from game-block and gives gamers 1-ms (0E gotcha!) response time, plus a braided cable with gold-plated USB connector provides a reliable and smooth signal connection during battle activities.

A reliable eight million clicks gives a comfortable click feeling for MMO/RTS gamers, and the adjustable weight design has six metal weights-each 4.8 grams, and the X-Y axis dpi is adjustable to fit the game battle demand.

Death Taker uses the Sweplon E3 so gamers can setup "Button Assignment," "Manage Macro" for up to 55 keys, "Software Setting" customized mouse performance and "Light Option" can select up to 16 million fascinating backlight colors.

Being MMO/RTS game-oriented, comfortable to design and a superb hand grip, outstanding performance in all games, Death Taker is the choice of game addicts.

Features:

- Professional 9-button MMO/RTS gaming mouse
- Over-clocking 32Bit, 100 dpi to 3700 dpi
- Sweplon gaming U-Fire shortcuts
- 16 million RGB backlight system
- Adjustable metal weight 4.8g x 6
- Dedicated memory to prevent game block
- 7.8 meter braided cable with gold-plated USB cable
- Rubber coating finished to receive total control

Death Taker professional gaming mouse retails at P2,080. Genius is locally distributed by MSI-ECS. For inquiries, e-mail marketing@msi-ecs.com.ph or call 655-3191.

Smartphone with a data plan—is it necessary?

By Reggie Ramos (www.techroadtrip.net)

THE BEEP-taking PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant or Palm Pilot, as some would call it) and smartphones for a decade now. They're less expensive and more portable than laptops.

My current smartphone (engagement) is the Samsung Galaxy S3. It helps me with my tasks involving work, side-projects and entertainment on a daily basis.

Marveling at the power and style of this Samsung Galaxy S3, I can't help wonder—can it survive without a mobile data plan?

Of course, it can. However, smartphone nowadays are highly recommended to be online all the time. Most apps need to be updated regularly via the Internet for them to function well. You even need the Internet on your smartphone to check the latest clicks on your Facebook or Twitter timeline.

I find the Samsung Galaxy S3's hardware awesome, so awesome that it would be a waste if I didn't have a reliable 3G network. I rely on my phone's apps, and my apps rely

THE SAMSUNG Galaxy S3's stunning display and Smart's reliable data connection makes mobile Internet a truly delightful experience.

Acer computing gear gets ready for London 2012 Olympic Games

ACER is all set to showcase its best products and technologies during the London 2012 Olympic Games as a key contributor to the IT infrastructure that will ensure the smooth operation of the Games.

The equipment, valued at new easily to be deployed across the event's three and medal-centric competitor 13,000 desktops, 2,900 notebooks, 900 servers and storage systems, 11,000 computer monitors, and a number of tablet PCs.

These resources will run the entire information system for the event, including Games management, competition, results, reception, information queries and broadcast support. The itinerary for each athlete will also be managed via Acer's machines. To handle the complex creation and running of these systems, Acer has mobilized 250 staff members.

Acer Inc. corporate president Jim Wong said: "Acer appreciates the Olympic spirit. We are honoured to be a Worldwide Partner of the Olympic Movement and hope to help it in the world's largest, most significant event."

Up close

Connecting millions then to support the Olympics campaign, Acer Philippines' general manager Mr. Marcelo Manalo's full-court "in the flesh" in four products for 2012 crafting to welcome segments and classes, from students to the academia to professionals and business support.

The media was treated to a display of the sleek, space-saving Acer P246H. Olympic Games edition computer monitor with its 24-inch LED-backlit monitor.

The Acer P246H, Olympic Games edition is an eight-inch Full HD (1920 x 1080) monitor. It features full 1920 by 1080 HD resolution, an outstanding contrast ratio of 100 million:1, extremely fast 5-ms response time, ultra-wide viewing angles (170 degrees horizontal and 160 degrees vertical), and is engaging 10.7 million colors rendering images. It boasts full HD from acquisition 2.0-inch display panel.

The Acer P246H, is ideal for professionals who needed multi-tasking in the office, but the monitor is also versatile enough for use in the home. Furthermore, as users' achievements, exhibitions, home theaters, console gaming, and similar environments that demand rich, dynamic visuals.

When LED backlight technology, meanwhile, adds a dimension of energy efficiency to the monitor's versatility and display performance. The Olympic edition P246H, is the latest in a series of Acer EcoDisplays, with mercury-free LED lamps, recyclable packaging materials, compliance with EnergyStar 5.0 and TCO Certified Edge displays. Restriction of Hazardous Substances directive, and the ability to consume up to 40 percent power savings.

Razor-thin

At the Acer tech show, this year is the use of slogan 95, a retro-ally-acclaimed 21-inch thin notebook computer launched in the Philippines today by Indian-most Acer. At one is a spectacular design fine and an advanced technological breakthrough, the Acer Aspire S5 makes a great leap forward for users who are looking for a computing device that, quite simply is ever above the rest.

The new ultrabook, which is also called the recent International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2012 in Las Vegas, packs a stunning set of performance features in such a razor-thin frame. It combines the power of a third-generation Intel Core processor, the lightning-fast speed of Intel's Smart Response Technology, and the visual performance of the new Magic Plus Gold pure panel, and the seamless connectivity of the Acer AirWare Connect.

The ultrabook's ultra-mini responsive edge, classic design, and ultra-mini-cool construction is so dazzling, but also its dedication to creating strong as-need, distinctly etched machine users. Thin curves, exquisite detailing, and multiple aluminum textures give the Aspire S5's chrome-brushed-to-a-touch-of-elegance; the metal mimics inspired design-minimalist and contemporary. Chemical shape, construction, coordinate to the underhood to mind-consumer feel and enhanced thermal efficiency.

The Acer Aspire S5, which made its debut at the world's slimmest Ultrabook, provides users with a chance to apply its multi-task intentions to hand-wise. This begins with a dazzling 13.3-inch LED-backlit screen, which boasts of

ACER P246H, Olympic Games Edition Computer Monitor

high definition 1366 by 768 resolution 1366 aspect ratio and integration itself with the Aspire S5's protective frame, thus cutting back the bezel by approximately a third.

Thanks to the computing power of a third-generation Intel Core processor, integrated Intel HD Graphics 4000, touch support for Windows 8 (Intel), LCD, and GDDR5 AMD HD 3000 over ago, the Ultrabook handles everything from the simplest daily tasks to the most demanding applications with incredible speed and ease.

Just to make sure that the Aspire S5 doesn't end up in the wrong hands, a security and protection tool called Acer InstaLock enables a message and sounds off an alarm whenever an unauthorized person attempts to move the notebook.

Olympic edition tablet

Recently available in the Philippines is the new Acer Iconia Tab A510 Olympic Games edition.

The machine's 10.1-inch Android tablet features a seamless battery life of up to 14 hours, the improved latest performance of the NVIDIA Tegra 3 quad-core mobile supercomputer, a stunning suite of productivity apps and technologies, and the refined, evolved interface of the Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich platform.

It also carries the signature innovation of entertainment Acer, as well as the spirit of the world's greatest sporting event, the Olympic Games. Acer designed the special edition Iconia A510 for competition. Those ready and set to become the best they can be at work, play, and everything in between. Has bolding Olympian strength and speed, like its users, the Acer Iconia Tab A510 Olympic Games Edition is built to achieve. The tablet's smooth, sleek curves and subtle shapes reflect the brilliant of prominent first line and cannot stopped with the distinctive Olympics/Acer logo embodies intended strength and unbendable style.

Complementing the device's beautiful racing design is its jaw-dropping speed. As Acer's first NVIDIA Tegra 3 tablet, the Acer Iconia Tab A510 delivers up to five times the performance of previous generation devices. Its ninja-every mobile quad-core CPU gaze camera-saver powers less battery consumption, and more effective work-load distribution, enabling the tablet to work at Olympian pace.

A fifth battery-saving core, meanwhile, efficiently handles low-power tasks like music playback and active standby, helping extend the Acer Iconia Tab A510's industry-leading battery life. Power-packed design for long-lasting entertainment and productivity.

Only 9.4 inches thin, the thin and lightweight Acer Iconia Tab A510 Olympic Games Edition does not need extra bulk to get the best from its battery. Its 10-hour 36.2-Wh battery, which is 50 percent bigger than that of other 10.1-inch Android tablets, is seamlessly integrated into the tablet's form, power-packed design.

Acer's new media tablet doesn't need a full-scale dedicated speakers set up to sound stunning, either. Built in Dolby Mobile 3+ technology (with premium 5.1 HD output) delivers cinematic surround sound to movie theaters and music, and heightens every listening experience with its powerful boost and bass enhancer.

When Olympic editors Iconia Tab's hardware is well-equipped to handle heavyweight apps and tasks, as is its software. The included Ice Cream Sandwich operating system introduces intuitive online controls—such as a new voice-activated search and input engine, new touch access to visual thumbnails, improved 3D rendering, and a beautiful, simplified home screens—that even makes the tablet experiences.

And just like in every beloved Android-powered device, hundreds of thousands of apps are available for instant download at the Google Play store.

Available in 16 GB and 32 GB models with removable or extra 32 GB of micro sds, the Acer Iconia Tab A510 Olympic Games Edition features dual-camera for optimized features. These include a Micro-USB 2.0 port, a Micro-HDMI port (supporting full 1080p HDMI connection for on-the-spot presentations), the DLNA-enabled Acer-shared stations media media that big solution, and a signature 3D control app called Acer Sing, which opens up a series of key offerings, bookmarks, quick-launch and more options with a single sweeping tap.

In packing all these, the Acer Iconia Tab A510 2012 Olympic Games Edition delivers on its promise of being the ultimate media device for champions. The special attention of Acer's state-of-the-art Android tablet stirs true to its Olympic-inspired design, power core and for all that Acer are so ready to what its users can achieve.

Hardcore gaming

Built for hardcore gaming, beautiful graphics suite, immersive HD cinematic and action-packed sound, the Acer Aspire Timeline 1830 represents the bold evolution from smart to smarter. For on battery and thinner thinner.

This new generation of Acer's acclaimed Aspire Timeline series of high-performance notebooks is a true game changer. At 20.10 millimeters of it, it includes the amazing graphics of a third-generation Intel Core processor and optional NVIDIA GeForce GT 640M, the lightning-fast responsiveness of Acer's exclusive Intel Smart Response Connect, the rock-solid reliability of a Powered Smart battery pack, and the versatility of multiple USB or HDD storage options.

Portable projector

It's light, it's easy to use and more importantly, promises brilliant presentations wherever and whenever you need it. And that's what Acer's new projector, the Acer K330, is all about.

It's because the Acer K330 Travel LED projector offers practically everything that you'll ever be expecting of a palm-sized item (never designed for only mobility and portability). The Acer K330 is perhaps the last projector you'll ever need.

Quality-wise, the Acer K330 Travel LED projector boasts of a bright, 200-lumens LED lamp that delivers HD-quality pops from and enhanced color saturation, plus many other benefits.

Over the years, LED lamps for projectors have become the norm now. For one, the outstanding life offers time (doubling longer life span for reduced costs), battery-saving efficiency, and more that are no breakable filaments, or tubes and readily environment friendly since there are no hazardous mercury or dangerous halogen gases.

Its Dynamic Black technology is engineered for improving color performance of the Acer K330 Travel LED projector with a 10,000:1 contrast ratio. More importantly, the high bright-ness and contrast ratio helps project crystal-clear and vibrant images even from a long distance.

ACER Iconia Tab A510 Olympic Games edition

PHOTO shows Manuel Wong (third from left), general manager of Acer Philippines Inc. flanked by models showcasing the latest product innovations of Acer. Highlights of the Acer Tech show was the Intrusion line of XL Acer's latest all-in-touch model.

Lightweight laptop

College life is about to become so much cooler as tech pioneer Acer launches the Aspire One 756, a thin and lightweight laptop designed to meet the modern demands of today's young minds.

The newest addition to the popular Aspire One (AO) series of subcompact notebook computers, the Acer Aspire One 756 features a beautiful 11.6-inch HD (1366 x 768 pixels) screen, powerful dual-core and 3D graphics options, a roaring-edge keyboard with advanced input-sensor technology, ERGOLITAR-certified performance, and a range of stylish color choices set to make you stand out in and around the campus.

The Aspire One 756 is powered by high-speed connectivity features, highlighted by the Acer Crystal Eye HD Webcam with integrated Acer Video Conference Manager.

Rock-solid performance

Every business score in the quarter, faster, more cost-efficient, offensive and bottom line, cross revenue generating than its competition. This is what the new Veriton Business PCs from Acer are one of the world's most trusted technology innovators, promises to help CEO's achieve business success.

Launched amid impressive festivities, Acer introduces its newest set of Veriton Business PCs: the 16-liter Veriton M4620G, 16-liter Veriton M4620G and 18-liter Veriton M4630G desktop. Acer are powered to offer ultra-by 3rd generation Intel Core processors in order to deliver rock-solid performance, perfect for BPOs and other commercial businesses.

To ensure data integrity Acer-Provided Security software gives users a Computrace agent, which enables IT administrators to remotely and manageable tools. It's a single-client console application, one that integrates key security and management features under a unified user interface.

The desktops are also TPM 1.2 compliant to adhere to corporate-level security requirements and lowers total cost of ownership.

Olympic all-in-one

Every athlete's ultimate dream is to bring home and play out only to his home town in order to his family and country. Standing atop the podium in the Olympics, gold medal around his neck, national anthem playing in the background and tears shed down.

Every IT enthusiast or consumer of us has his own dream PC, which they want to call the Acer Aspire Z5770 Olympic edition All-in-One PC. It is a gold-touched-worthy beauty. With a full-HD 23-inch 1920 x 1080 pixel touch screen, high-brightness LED-backlit TFT LCD (full-HD-capable) up to a 178-degree wide viewing angle, we display set for anyone can truly marvel at.

And with the Acer EasyStore tool software, it gives users a massive, multi-touch way of accessing the PC and the Internet, whether I'm on all-time the basic basis or social networking services for a more seamless user experience.

Slimmer, lighter notebook

In a bid to carry to the market that endorses notably mobile lifestyle but extend it a more cost-efficient gadget for more than every day use, Acer launches today its new Aspire V5 and V5 series notebooks. These slender and light notebooks are packed with full-all performance features and totally fit the savvy computer user of today. With extremely responsive and human-to-operate graphics, the Acer Aspire V5 and V5 series are powered by the choice can also get computing needs of you, no matter is rarely stressed and becomes a truly user-flexible experience.

Why so? Because, the users are now in 20 percent slimmer at 23 mm and 1.8 percent lighter than its previous Aspire 4 Series. It's like for using the Acer Timeline and Ultrabook combined, with a 3-spindle design that includes shared drive and an 8X DVD-Super Multi drives.

However, do not confuse slimmer the power of the Acer Aspire V5 and V5 notebooks, despite being skinny and light, when it comes to multi-media capabilities. All rounds to the world-wide the latest Intel Core i-Series processor for greater and faster media processing, video playback and Faster Web browsing and gaming, plus graphics solutions courtesy of the NVIDIA GeForce GT 640M discrete graphics capability and battery, they are now a force to reckon with.

When it comes to superior overall IT performance, the Aspire V5 and V5 notebooks are out to earn honors of customers' and offices' budget.

Business power

Business-enabled showcase, at the end of the day, only need three things: precision, performance, and revenue. How are these requirements met? Businesses need the right amount and

ACER Aspire Timeline Ultra M5 Series

balance of people and technology.

The technology part is ably filled by the latest and tech servers offered by businesses of today by technology innovator Acer, Inc. with the recent launch of the P7 series of towers and rack servers.

Take, for example, the ATA 0 P2, is of a single-socket tower server that delivers exemplary server capabilities, using proactive management ability with wide selection of hot-swap features and performance technology that is ideal for small and medium-sized companies and businesses with branch-office operations.

The ATA 0 P2 also features an efficient power supply that helps businesses minimize waste through savings in energy consumption yet does not meet but will produce truly-need performance.

Solid compatibility, the promises of the Acer AT 0 P2 tower server features of enhanced technology as well as top-of-the-line Intel Xeon processor for a more robust solution to business-to-operational execution, capable of handling the most complicated and solution-heavy workloads and transactions in the most refined environment.

The AT 0 P2 server also offers enterprise-class data storage capabilities of up to 8 hot-swappable 3.5" and 2.5" SAS memory for lightning-quick operations to ensure maximized business performance.

High quality images with Sony translucent mirror design

Perfect for the starting photographer

By Eugene Araneta

SONY has launched two new cameras SLT-A57 and NEX-F3 boasting of the company's own translucent mirror design for the camera called SLT or single lens translucent camera technology.

SLT is a new camera technology that did away with the moving mirror part found in bulky DSLRs (or lenses) are a boon to light splitter, allowing the camera to take photos with faster autofocus.

The new SLT-A57 is an entry level, 16 megapixel SLT camera that is designed to help beginners capture high quality images without the effort.

For example, the camera's "Auto Portrait Framing Mode" feature already identifies the subject's position and creates beautifully composed, high resolution portraits using the computerized "rule of thirds" giving the user more professionally modeled photos.

Zoom fanatics of the camera is also impressed with the "Clear Image Zoom" feature that has the ability to double the magnifications of the lens with clear details close and less grainy. With this feature the user can enjoy taking close up shots without pushing far even telephoto lens.

It is also featured with "By Pixel Super Resolution Technology" which ensures that cropped, zoomed portraits retain the full pixel count of an image in addition to having a "Superior Auto Mode" feature which allows the camera to intelligently choose the right setting for any shooting situation.

The SLT-A57 is equipped with a 16 megapixel Exmor APS HD CMOS sensor and complemented by the latest BIONZ image processor that extends the camera's film sensitivity to a generous ISO 100-16000 range.

The camera is also capable of capturing Full HD video using MPEG-4 or H.264 and AVCHD video formats.

The new SLT-A57 is available for P69,999 (including the 18-55mm zoom lens) and comes with a 3rd lens filter, camera bag and extra battery.

Sony also introduced the new compact and affordable Alpha NEX-F3 camera that features an LCD display that can be tilted up to 180 degree angle for easy self portraits.

The NEX-F3 is a pocket sized interchangeable lens camera which can take high quality images, comparable to that of a DSLR quality (s.a). as features the same sparse sensing intensities design found in other Sony's E-mount cameras family.

This camera is equipped with a 16.1 effective megapixel Exmor APS HD CMOS sensor and powered by the latest BIONZ image processor for flawless, low-noise still images and crisply detailed Full HD video.

Notable features of the NEX-F3 include the "Auto Portrait Framing Mode" which identifies your subject's position and creates beautifully composed, high resolution portraits using the compositional "rule of thirds."

Fitted with a three movable LCD display, the camera gives the user the option to take self-portraits at arm's length by pressing the shutter button or just allowing the "Smile Shutter" feature take the picture for you automatically.

Shooting options in dim light or indoors are broadened with the addition of a useful built-in flash. As introduced on the acclaimed NEX-7, the handy pop-up flash encompassed in the NEX-F3 lets you brighten up portraits and other shots without the need to carry an additional flash accessory.

It is also equipped with a Clear Image Zoom that doubles effective magnification of your lens as well as the "By Pixel Super Resolution Technology" that ensures cropped, zoomed portraits retain the full pixel count of an image.

Recommended as a travel companion, the new Alpha NEX-F3 is available in black and silver and retails for P37,999 (including the 16-55mm zoom lens).

Globe postpaid, mobile data plans

By Joel Nigos

GLOBE Telecom is eyeing further growth in its postpaid and mobile data businesses by offering its subscribers an expanded line-up of smartphone devices under its suite of unlimited data plans.

For the second quarter of 2012 alone, Globe launched three flagship smartphones from the world's leading device manufacturers. In April, Globe exclusively launched the Nokia Lumia 800, Nokia's latest smartphone device that runs on the Windows platform, featuring Internet Explorer 9, free voice-guided navigation services, and free music and image storage. Globe subscribers can avail of the Nokia Lumia 800 for free at Php1,999 Tattoo Combo 1799 complete with unlimited mobile surfing, P800 monthly consumable amount for calls and texts, and free text, call and surf freebies that can be changed monthly.

In May, Globe became the first Philippine telco to offer the BlackBerry Curve 9220 and BlackBerry Curve 9320, the two new BlackBerry Curve smartphones available for the middle market segment.

The BlackBerry Curve 9220 is free in My Super Plan 999 plus 1999 unlimited BlackBerry Chat subscription which gives users P999 monthly consumable amount for calls and texts, unlimited access to BlackBerry Messenger (BBM), and free text, call and surf freebies.

The BlackBerry Curve 9320 comes free in My Super Plan Plus Electry Unli Surf Combo Plan 999 with unlimited surfing, P400 monthly consumable for calls and texts, and free text, call or surf freebie.

Just this month, Globe unveiled the latest and more affordable offer for the Samsung Galaxy S III, where subscribers can get Samsung's smartphone flagship smart phone for as low as P1,499 monthly under Unli Surf Combo 999 with P700 monthly subscription, complete with unlimited text and call freebie. Subscribers can also get the phone for free at Unli Surf Combo 1799 with P200 monthly subscription bundled with unlimited data, P800 monthly consumable amount for calls and texts in any network, and free text, call and surf freebies.

"With the continued rise in smartphone and mobile data use in the Philippines, Globe is taking advantage of this trend by offering a complete line-up of devices and bundles that cater to the different market segments of our growing postpaid subscribers base," said Martha Sazon, head of Globe Postpaid. "Our strong partnerships with the world's leading device manufacturers allow us to launch the latest smartphones ahead of others and push them with our fully customizable plans bundled with unlimited data, freebies, and excellent after-sales support that no other telco can give."

Globe offers the widest selection of handsets under its roster of postpaid plans, offering the latest Android devices for free for as low as Php 999.

According to Singapore-based research firm GfK Asia, the Philippines was noted as the fastest-growing market in smartphones, with the value of smartphones sold growing by 402 percent in the first quarter of 2012 versus 2011. Smartphone sales in the Philippines were valued at an estimated US$265 million in the first quarter of the year.

Globe connected its lead in the mobile postpaid segment in the first quarter of 2012 with a subscriber share of 43 percent and a 19 percent growth in subscriber base from previous year's levels. Postpaid service revenues ran at P5.3 billion with revenue share of 57 percent, way higher than the combined revenues of its two main competitors. On the other hand, its mobile data revenues increased by 6 percent year-on-year to P8.2 billion from P7.7 billion, now accounting for 49 percent of total mobile service revenues. Direct mobile browsing revenues also increased by 31 percent from previous year's levels with the telco's strong lineup of data plans.

Staking up its robust portfolio of handsets and data plans is the Globe network which is in the thick of a massive modernization program that will modernize thousands of its cell sites across the country to cater to the emerging mobile data traffic due to the growing number of smartphones. Globe will also be rolling out 18,000 km of fiber optics to the implementation of Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology that will bring high-speed data to mobile phones and other data terminals.

Cool back-to-school promos from Brother

BROTHER International (Phils.) presents a back-to-school promo by offering students everything they need for a successful new school year. Avail of bundled free items or a discount for every purchase through Brother authorized Dealers nationwide until June 30.

Get a free Genuine Bhuspad 310-16 notebook with every purchase of Brother DCP-9020CDN 3-in-1 network-ready color LED multifunction center printer or HL-4150CDN network-ready color laser printer with duplex printing. Both units are available at P24,990.

The promo is also applicable to ink or color laser models.

Get P2,000 off and Voting home a free wireless router when you buy Brother's DCP-J315W 3-in-1 network-ready mono laser multifunction center printer at P4,950. Get P2,000 off also for every DCP-T300 purchase at P7,990.

Or gear up for school with a compact handheld, also with the purchase of Brother's DCP-J125W 4-in-1 wireless network-ready color inkjet multifunction center printer for only P6,595.

Grab the chance to get more freebies at Brother's booth at school stall show. Visit Brother Booth at any of the following venues at these schedules in avail of the limited promo: Gaisil, Davao and Limbonhai Mall from June 25 to July 1; and SM City Clark from June 27 to July 3.

Other models are also available for purchase in Brother's back to school and roadshow promos. For more information, see Byer and points or contact Brother Helpdesk hotline at 361-8896. Like Brother Philippines on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BROTHERPhilippines.

E-tablet program introduced for Mandaluyong school

E-SCHOOL in Mandaluyong City recently forged an agreement with an info-content and technology company to bring the use of e-tablets into a certain school use. The International Baptist College (IBC) signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Edgecomm Inc. for an e-tablet application and initial e-learning program implementation in the school year 2012. In this program, students will no longer be carrying so many and heavy textbooks but only one tablet PC which has a unique book reader and e-library.

IBC president Edward Isidoro and Edgecomm president and CEO Galvin Sutrisnalis, signed the MOA for the project that took at least a year to plan and organize. According to Isidoro, the project is timely. "It is the opening salvo as we entered the digitization of our system of high-tech education," he says, adding that the project holds opportunities and challenges that are far from the traditional and the conventional.

The agreement will enable IBC to become a 900's campus that will facilitate the use of e-tablets in the school. The move is also viewed as advantageous to students, as e-tablets can be used as a replacement to the voluminous textbooks that children were previously expected to carry during school days.

Featuring the use of e-tablets is likewise expected by both IBC and Edgecomm to bolster and enhance the children's education.

"The tablet is the most concise tool for e-books," said Sutrisnalis. He added that Edgecomm's tablets have a unique book reader and e-library with security settings and free e-books from being hastily Edgecomm's e-tablets are also very imaginative and future very attractive than other tablets currently in the market.

The parents of IBC students have been very supportive of the project. "Many parents want their child's to participate in the program and be seen in a tablet because this is a very good educational tool," he shares. "Besides, students need not go to the internet shops anymore because they can now do unlimited school work while in the campus. Actually there will be many savings in many aspects."

At present, IBC and Edgecomm have agreed to pilot the project in grade 4, grade 7 and for the first four years of high school. "Other levels will follow as needed," says Isidoro. He adds that in terms of content, Edgecomm has likewise partnered with Save Book store for more e-books that can be downloaded to the tablets.

Smartphone with a data plan—is it necessary?

Boomgaard

on my data connection, a stable one-to-one. I am a demanding mobile tech user; more so now because all the work that I do revolves around the internet.

Let Ally, I have been subscribed to SMART's unlimited data plan for the past couple of years, and with my Galaxy S3, I consider gadget and plan a perfect combination.

Here are the things that I've done with my Galaxy S3 powered by my 3G service from SMART:

1. Make Skype calls to colleagues based in the US. Calls were clear. I even thought I used my voice plan to make those calls.

2. Watch a training video on the Galaxy S3 created by a colleague. It was in high-definition but I was really surprised that it only consumed a few hundred MB while I played it. On another occasion, I watched one of my favorite HD videos by Jasmine Trias on YouTube and there was no buffering at all. All the more, I appreciated watching the HD version on the Galaxy S3's Super HD AMOLED screen.

3. Use Dropbox to share ideas with a partner for a project. Some of the photos I uploaded were taken by my Galaxy S3's 8MP camera, which translates to a large amount of files. But because of my fast 3G speeds, they get uploaded in no time! (Dropbox comes with free 48GB of storage with the Galaxy S3.)

4. Share around and set up my mobile office using where I please. If the place doesn't have a WiFi hotspot, no problem! All I do is turn on the Galaxy S3's WiFi Hotspot and I can get online. Best to either be in sync to work, I need to be connected to our VPN (Virtual Private Network) as well. It relies on a stable Internet connection and thankfully, I rarely experience problems connecting as it has could mail me from anything.

5. Yes, I work all the time but I am also active in social networking sites. I share photos taken with my Galaxy S3 by posting them on Twitter or Instagram. Uploading is always a breeze.

6. The Samsung Galaxy S3 is an HSDPA+ phone. There are some areas in the metro where I experience speeds of 5-7 Mbps thanks to the SpeedTest app. No wonder my data connection is flawless!

There are just some of the benefits of having a truly reliable data connection from SMART, with an excellent smartphone like the Samsung Galaxy S3. With such a combo, I work fast and smart (to be short), and I enjoy consistently from what they say is the "unconnected," most advanced mobile network in the Philippines.

So if you think that you should not get a data plan with a smartphone, think of Captain Apostrophe asking you this question: "Take away that Internet connectivity from your Galaxy S3 and where will you be?"

The Samsung Galaxy S3 comes free when bundled with the Smart Unli Data Plan 2000 under a 30-month contract.

Stand out with Canon Pixma Printers

DARIUS Uy, a Marketing Major from the University of Sto. Tomas, is a managing partner of OSOM Bar in Boracay and excels in both studies and extra-curricular activities.

Are you a college student with an above average academic record? Do you actively pursue extra-curricular activities? Do you express yourself consistently through the arts? Are you a team player?

If you answered "yes" to all these questions, then you can be one of Canon Pinoys Stand Out Students.

To celebrate the well-rounded individual, Canon PIXMA is calling all students to take part in the Stand Out Student Search. During pre-selection, students, such as a Canon PIXMA Ink Efficient E500 printer, a Powershot digital camera, and media accessories.

More details can be found in www.facebook.com/canonpinoy.ph. Entries will be judged based on the applicant's positive impact in society, academics, leadership, level of participation in an organization and audience impact, which will be denoted by the number of Facebook "Likes".

The first few lucky students have already been selected as part of Canon PIXMA's stand out crew. They are the following:

Darius Uy, a Marketing senior from the University of Santo Tomas, combines looks, brains, brawn, and personality seamlessly, making him one of the most amiable people in campus.

He describes himself as a normal student who studies on weekdays, socializes on weekends, relaxes during his free time, and turns into a workaholic when finals roll around the corner. But what makes him stand out is that together with his academic workload of a normal student, Darius works for his family business as the managing partner of OSOM bar in Boracay. He was also a student coordinator for his student council, and he plays for his marketing organization's basketball tournaments.

Angel Yulo, a 22-year-old scholar from the University of Asia and the Pacific, has garnered a plateful of sports, art, theatre, radio broadcast, volunteer work, and academics, earning her expansive but versatility and dedication to others.

She describes her past four years in UAAP as "one big awakening act". Alongside her academic workload, she participates in extracurricular activities that further develop her extroverted self. Ever since freshman year, she has been a student DJ for Radio1, a radio show that airs in Mercator Radio FM 93.1 every Saturday from 12 noon to 1 p.m. She involves herself in theater guild outside UAAP and was a former member of the basketball varsity team in school. Angel applies her well-rounded life also taking part in more tranquil activities such as yoga and painting. When she has extra time, she visits impoverished provinces and distributes goods.

Bea Lizaspare is an Early Childhood Education major from De La Salle University. She started her leadership journey in her freshman year, when she was elected Batch President. It was a great honor for her and it developed her desire to serve the student body. Even after graduation, she plans to continue contributing to society. She wants to be a preschool teacher for a year or two, and then proceed to take a master's degree in Special Education. Ultimately, she wants to set up a school for special children.

What makes it unique is that it is more management, alongside some organization. She uses a planner to keep track of all her responsibilities, prioritizing academics over all others. She is currently part of the Batch Government, the Office of The Treasurer, the La Salle Alumni Committee, and the socio-political organization entitled Sanggunian.

Maria Tuason, a Communications Senior from Ateneo de Manila University, has proven herself to have a thirst of knowledge, aptly applied to situations that further develop her overall perspectives.

Most of Maria's strengths lie in the field of communication, and her ultimate passion and all-time favorite outlet is writing. She uses extracurricular activities as a release to build her confidence towards becoming an advertising agency after school. Last year, she was the Associate Vice President of Accounts for the Collegiate Society of Advertising (COSAI), and upon the summer, she interned in an ad agency which provided her with considerable experience.

Canon PIXMA Ink Efficient E500 PHP2,995

CANON PIXMA Ink Efficient E500

ANGEL Yulo from the University of Asia & the Pacific is an academic scholar, a theater actress and a student radio DJ.

BEA Lizaspare from De La Salle University is a student leader, an honor student and a dancer.

MARIA Tuason from Ateneo de Manila University is a Communications major, Dean's Lister, a football player and loves making home movies.

Peter Wang, a sophomore in the University of Santo Tomas, is currently paving his path to success, overcoming heights and pitfalls along the way, all contributing to character building.

This go-getter graduated high school as a Salutatorian and finished college as a scholar, earning his Business Administration and majoring in Marketing Management. Apart from his academic requirements, he was also active in various student organizations. He is also the Community Development Head of Bicutan Ub Sentro Tomasino, the Sole Thomasian Scholarship Association.

His extracurricular activities are not limited to the opportunities within the university. Outside school, he served as Wushu coach in the Philippine Long Team Athletic Federation, and last year, the Wushu coach in Philippine Tiong Be Academy and Philippine Academy of Sakya.

The PIXMA Stand Out Students Search coincides with Canon's launch of multi-functional printers that fully complement a student's multi-faceted lifestyle. Leading this line-up are two Canon PIXMA ink-efficient models namely the Ink Efficient E500 (Print, Scan, Copy) and the Efficient E600 (Print, Scan, Copy, Fax). Both models are equipped with Canon's top-of-the-line page-wide printing technology, the Full Photo Lithography Inkjet Nozzle Engineering (FINE) system, which delivers fast, professional-high image quality outputs at much faster print speeds. These ink-efficient printers also allow you to print up to 1,200 high-quality documents for as low as PhP0.75 per print. The Ink Efficient E500 and the Ink Efficient E600 are also armed with Chromalife 100, which makes its photo printouts last up to 100 years.

PETER Wang from the University of Sto. Tomas is an academic scholar, an accomplished Wushu artist and a servant Wushu coach.

Ideal for the busy back-to-school season, the Ink Efficient E500 and E600 also offer creative features to help students ace competition in a digitally driven arena. Both printers come with the Full HD Movie printing feature, which allows users to directly print video taken from an HD movie. Full filter effects are also available for more realistic and well-defined pictures and crafts.

Free awesome gear is also up for grabs for the Ink Efficient E500/the E600 is purchased with one as wherein you can get a free Esprit watch or purchase select Canon PIXMA printers and genuine inks to get a free High Sierra backpack.

Find out more about the Canon PIXMA E500 and E600's student-friendly features at http://www.canon.com.ph

Canon PIXMA is the No.1 Inkjet printer brand in terms of unit sold in Philippines for 2011. Source of Data: GfK Asia/Pacific Quarterly Hardcopy Peripherals Tracker, Q1'2012

Chromalife100

Canon's proprietary technology that lets photos last up to 100 years* using Canon genuine inks and papers

*Based on Wilhelm Imaging Research, Inc. Test Report

Full HD Movie Print

Capture your favorite moments from Full HD Movies (in .mov format) shot with Canon digital cameras and get fine printouts that are filled with Canon's image correction technology.

FREE

FREE Esprit watch with every purchase of PIXMA E600/E500 + one (1) Genuine Ink Bottle/Cartridge with matching purchase of select genuine inks and PIXMA printers.* Promo Period: May 1 to August 30, 2012

*Save more or visit www.canon.com.ph/solutions for more details. Items and Conditions Apply. For Shopper Promo inc. size bonus or GIFT

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Free High Sierra Backpack or Esprit watch with every purchase of select Canon PIXMA Printers & genuine inks.